

Jan. 23 talks to focus on occupation

TUNIS (R) — The head of the Arab League said Friday that next week's emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers would concentrate on Israel's 20-year occupation of Arab territories. Secretary General Chadi Klibi told reporters the situation in the occupied territories was precarious and could not be allowed to continue. "This situation cannot last any longer," he said. Mr. Klibi said the 21-member Arab League meeting in Tunis, originally scheduled for Jan. 24, would now be held on Jan. 23. Officials said this was to avoid a clash with an Arab Parliamentary Union meeting here. The meeting has been called, at Libya's request, to discuss Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Klibi said that League members such as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria were expected to table motions at the meeting, but that he could not forecast what measures the foreign ministers would decide upon. The PLO has asked the league to appeal to the United Nations Security Council to send U.N. troops or observers to protect Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

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Omanis hold service for dead Palestinians

MUSCAT (R) — Hundreds of Omanis packed a memorial service Friday for Palestinians killed by Israelis in the occupied territories. The service in a city mosque was held on the express instructions of Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id. The grand mufti of the Sultanate, Sheikh Ahmad Ibn Hamad Al Khalili, led the service, described on Oman television news as a "requiem mass." Omani Foreign Affairs Minister Yousef Ibn Alawi told Reuters Thursday that Israeli actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were unacceptable.

Sabbah inaugurated

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The first Arab Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem was inaugurated Thursday at a festive ceremony in the walled Old City. Hundreds of Arabs lined the streets of the Old City to greet the new patriarch, 54-year-old Michel Sabbah of Nazareth. Patriarch Sabbah, dressed in a gold-coloured robe, was inaugurated in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Iran to send 150,000 pilgrims

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, whose pilgrims were accused by Saudi Arabia for starting riots which killed hundreds in Mecca last July, will send 150,000 to the yearly pilgrimage in 1988, Tehran Radio said Thursday. The radio quoted Iran's top Haj official as saying Iranian pilgrims would hold demonstrations in Islam's holiest cities of Mecca and Medina "in a more resolute and determined manner than before."

Iran said holding 2 Hizbollah leaders

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran is holding two leaders of the radical Hizbollah (Party of God) believed behind the kidnapping of most foreigners in Lebanon, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper reported Friday. The Arabic daily Al Ittihad said Abdul Hadi Hammadi and Imad Maghnieh had been under arrest for nine months over their involvement in hostage-taking. The paper, attributing its report to diplomatic information received in London from Tehran, said the two men were summoned to Tehran in April for consultations and had not returned to Beirut.

American experts complete Soviet visit

MOSCOW (R) — The first U.S. delegation to visit a Soviet nuclear test site says Soviet officials gave them a thorough briefing on Moscow's nuclear testing process. Delegation leader Robert Barker and about 20 U.S. experts went to the test site at Semipalatinsk Sunday and returned Friday. At the end of January, a group of Soviet officials and experts will pay a reciprocal visit to the U.S. nuclear test site in the Nevada desert.

Costa Rica hosts talks on peace plan

SAN JOSE (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, under pressure from Central American countries to make dramatic reforms, slipped into Costa Rica quietly Friday for talks with other leaders from the area aimed at saving the region's stagnating peace plan. Mr. Ortega, the target of planned protest demonstrations here, cancelled a news conference and arrived at a small airport outside San Jose instead of the main international airport, according to radio reports.

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Arab shot dead in Gaza, 70 wounded in Jerusalem as occupied territories observe a day of mourning

Israeli soldiers storm Aqsa and Gaza mosques

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers clashed with Palestinian worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque and stormed three other mosques in occupied West Bank and Gaza Friday as the territories observed a day of mourning for Arabs killed by Israeli troops in the ongoing Palestinian uprising that started Dec. 9.

Israeli troops also shot dead a Palestinian in Gaza and police injured at least 70 Arab demonstrators at Al Aqsa, according to reports.

Israeli police baton-charged and fired tear-gas at about 300 Arab protesters at Al Aqsa Mosque in the walled Old City who hurled stones at police, burned Israeli and U.S. flags and flew the Palestinian flag.

Doctors at the Mukkassas Islamic Hospital said they admitted 70 people suffering club wounds and the effects of tear-gas.

In Gaza City, troops firing live

rounds and tear-gas stormed the Omar Al Mukhtar mosque where Islamic fundamentalists took over the building's loudspeaker system and called for holy war against Israel.

Soldiers of the Golani Brigade sealed off all entrances to Palestine Square. Large numbers of soldiers were posted on rooftops overlooking the mosque.

All the Gaza Strip's eight Palestinian refugee camps were under either complete or partial curfew and journalists were forcibly removed from some areas.

A nurse inside an ambulance

belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) told the AP there were shouts coming from the mosque that many were injured, but troops would not let hospital workers inside. Soon after, an AP reporter saw troops order the ambulance to leave the area.

A Palestinian reporter said he heard worshippers pleading through the mosque loudspeakers an hour after the protest began: "Please come, we want help, we want to go out."

The head of Gaza's Shifa hospital and a Muslim official intervened with troops, who then allowed people to leave quietly through one door, he said.

Officials at Ahli Hospital reported receiving two wounded by gunshots and at least three injured from beatings. Among the beaten was the sheikh of the mosque in the village of Jabalya, Ahmad Hamdi.

Sheikh Hamdi suffered a gash in his head and a broken leg and fingers when soldiers rushed in

side the Jabalya mosque before noon prayers Friday, said Abed Ajrami, a nurse at the hospital. This reporter saw five army jeeps and a tank seal off the mosque, then fire tear-gas into its compound.

Also in Gaza City, Israeli troops shot and killed a 35-year-old Palestinian man after he tried to stab a soldier, an army spokesman said.

But relatives of the dead man, Ibrahim Mahmoud Nahal, told reporters the man was doing electrical work on the roof of his house when he began to shout insults at soldiers on the road below.

The Palestinians, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals, said the soldiers climbed two floors onto the roof and began beating Nahal.

They said when the Arab grabbed one of the troops and tried to duck behind the soldier to shield himself from the blows, another

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4 expelled Palestinians begin sit-in protest in Bekaa

KSARA, Lebanon (AP) — Palestinians expelled from the Israeli-occupied West Bank began a sit-in at an international Red Cross centre in southeast Lebanon Friday, demanding they be allowed to return home.

"We shall continue our struggle until we return to our homeland," said 45-year-old Jabril Mahmoud Rujib before he and his three comrades moved into the Red Cross office to begin their protest.

He said the four would remain at the centre in Ksara, in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley some 90 kilometres north of Israel, "until we return to Palestine, even if we are taken back as corpses to be buried there."

Speaking outside the four-storey building housing the centre after camping in the open all night, Mr. Rujib said "international bodies" should shoulder the responsibilities and ensure their return.

"We have no other alternative but to return to our homeland," he added.

Some 100 Palestinian men, women and children, waving banners denouncing Israel, also gathered outside the Red Cross centre in a show of support.

The demonstrators chanted: "Glory to our people's uprising in the occupied territories."

Mr. Rujib and his comrades — Bashir Ahmad Al Kheiri, 35, Hussam Abdul Rahman Khader, 25, and Jamal Mohammad Jibara, 24 — were expelled to South Lebanon Wednesday.

They had been charged of leading violent anti-occupation protests that have raged in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since Dec. 8.

The four were dropped by an Israeli army helicopter in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon and were reportedly told they would be shot if they tried to return to the enclave or to their homes.

From the "security zone," they were driven in taxicabs to the Bekaa.

The Lebanese army tried to send them back Thursday, but Israel closed all five crossings into the "security zone." The army later delivered them to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The PFLP provided the four, with tents and they were taken to Ksara, where they camped all night.

Palestinian flags fluttered over the five tents, four used by the men for sleeping and one as a reception room for well-wishers.

Security Council calls on Israel to repeal its expulsion order

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council has again called on Israel not to deport Palestinian civilians, but the United States withheld support it gave for a similar appeal 10 days ago.

The council agreed to meet again on Friday — this time to consider a complaint by Lebanon about Israeli incursions in the southern part of that country.

Diplomats said that efforts to deal with the week-old Lebanese request without recourse to full-scale debate were fruitless.

In a 14-0 vote, the United States abstained Thursday on the council's resolution calling on Israel to permit the return of four Palestinians it expelled to Lebanon after accusing them of inciting anti-occupation protests in the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. delegate Vernon Walters explained the shift by contending that it did not help to bring up the expulsion question repeatedly.

But he also said the United States deeply regretted the expulsions and urged Israel to desist from further such acts.

Israel dismissed the new Security Council resolution.

After the vote here, Israel Radio quoted the Israeli chief of staff, Dan Shomron, as having said the deported men would not be allowed back in any circumstances.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in Baghdad Friday that Washington by its abstention in effect approved the Security Council resolution condemning Israel's expulsion of the four Palestinians.

Arafat League representative Clovis Maksoud said that American failure to veto the new resolution "indicates the unanimity of the international community's outrage at Israel's flagrant defiance of earlier Security Council resolutions."

He said the abstention in the circumstances was tantamount to the United States sharing international condemnation of Israel.

Following is the text of a Security Council resolution, adopted Thursday by a 14-0 vote with the United States abstaining, calling on Israel to rescind its deportation of Palestinian civilians and return those already expelled:

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its Resolution 607 of 5 January 1988,

Expressing its deep regret that Israel, the occupying power, has, in defiance of that resolution, deported Palestinian civilians,

1. Calls upon Israel to rescind the order to deport Palestinian civilians and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those already deported;

2. Requests that Israel desist forthwith from deporting any other Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories;

3. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review.

Mr. Maksoud called for mandatory measures to force Israeli compliance.

Meanwhile, Israel's expulsion of the four Palestinians drew worldwide condemnation.

In Amman, the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) strongly condemned the expulsion and the Israeli move as a violation of human rights and a defiance of the U.N. Security Council resolution.

The association called on U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to exert this efforts to stop the implementation of the expulsion decision or any expulsion decision which the Israeli occupation authorities might take in the future.

PLO renews conditional offer to accept 242

BAGHDAD (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has warned that Palestinian protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza would go on, but said he would accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 if Israel and the United States dropped opposition to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attendance at a Mideast peace conference.

But he stressed that the international conference must be based on all United Nations resolutions, including those calling for Palestinian self-determination as well as Resolution 242 that calls for recognition of Israel.

"We would accept 242" on that basis, Mr. Arafat said in an interview in Baghdad.

"As this conference would be under U.N. auspices, that means the full legality of all U.N. resolutions, including 242 and 338" would be recognised, Mr. Arafat said.

He said that these resolutions must include those passed by the U.N. General Assembly that have supported Palestinians' right to an independent homeland and those calling for an Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands seized in the 1967 war.

He said that to reassure Israel about its security alongside any Palestinian state, he would allow U.N. troops to patrol the border on Palestinian territory.

Mr. Arafat, clearly linking the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza with efforts to get an international peace conference off the ground, stressed that the violence demonstrated the Palestinian will for an end to the occupation.

Mr. Arafat's move to get the proposed international conference off the ground was seen as a bid to intensify pressure on Israel amid growing international criticism of its tough action in combating Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Arafat stressed that an international conference on the Middle East was needed "before the issue gets to the point of no return."

Mr. Arafat said: "There's a strong determination by all our people, from the top to the smallest child, that these waves will continue until the end of the Israeli occupation."

He said the PLO was prepared to enter into peace talks as a full

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King: U.S. is dragging its feet in efforts for peace in Mideast

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has accused the United States of dragging its feet in the search for Middle East peace and said the Palestinian problem was approaching the point of no return.

In an interview with Britain's Independent Television News, the King said the "ominous" situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was fostering irrevocable extremism.

"I think we're fast approaching the psychological moment where all hope is lost of ever achieving anything reasonable and lasting and acceptable to generations to come," the King said in the interview broadcast Thursday evening.

"When you reach that point there's no point in taking into consideration the use of moderates because they won't have any views that will count for much."

The King reiterated the call for a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle



East and said the United States had a constructive role to play in the peace process but that the Reagan administration was not doing enough to force Israel towards a settlement.

"I think there were lots of missed chances. I believe that moderates have been let down on both sides in this particular situation and I believe the United

States will bear a terrible responsibility if it continues in the same way."

"So long as extremists in Israel feel they can control decision-makers in Washington, continue to receive help — right or wrong — a tragedy is being enacted that is of tremendous magnitude... and certainly not in the interest of the U.S.," the King said.

His Majesty said the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territory was initiated solely by the people living under Israeli rule and was not connected with any external source.

The uprising was bound to come about sooner rather than later as a natural reaction to occupation of Arab land over the past 20 years, the sufferings of the Palestinian people and their deprivation of their legitimate rights, the King said.

It is incumbent on the international community to help find a speedy and lasting solution for

(Continued on page 3)

Mubarak arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived Friday on a previously unannounced visit for talks with President Saddam Hussein after concluding a tour of Arab Gulf countries, Egyptian embassy officials said.

The officials, quoted by AP, said Mr. Mubarak was greeted at the airport by President Hussein and senior Iraqi officials Friday afternoon.

He was expected to discuss with Iraqi officials the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in the region and Arab solidarity, said the officials.

Mr. Mubarak was to spend the night in Baghdad and fly to Jordan Saturday, AP said.

It was not known whether Mr. Mubarak also would meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, who

is currently in Baghdad.

Mr. Mubarak Thursday wrapped up a tour of countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) where he sought a common strategy on the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Mubarak said during his visit that Egypt was concerned with security in the Gulf region, and stressed that his quest for a united Arab front was aimed primarily at pushing through the Arab-Israeli peace process with Palestinian participation in an international peace conference.

Osama Al Baz, one of Mr. Mubarak's closest aides, was quoted by the daily newspaper Oman as saying GCC leaders did not ask Mr. Mubarak to send troops to the Gulf and the Egyptian president made no requests for help in settling Cairo's foreign debt, estimated at \$40 billion.

But sources close to the president said he reviewed contingency plans in case of a direct Iranian threat spilling over from the Gulf war.

Mr. Mubarak offered Egyptian-made arms to any Arab state seeking to defend itself. Diplomats said Kuwait, the target of occasional Iranian missile attacks, would get some weapons and military experts.

Egypt already supplies Iraq with about \$1 billion worth of arms a year and is interested in new Gulf markets to boost production (see page 4).

Mr. Mubarak's Gulf visit was his first since the Arab states resumed diplomatic ties with Egypt in November after eight years of ostracism.

Mubarak's signal — peace with Israel is irrevocable, page 4.

Iran and Iraq resume tanker war in earnest

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — An Iranian speedboat attacked a Norwegian tanker in the Strait of Hormuz with rockets and machine guns Friday, starting a fire aboard the vessel and injuring two of its crew members, shipping executives said.

The 13,524-ton Igloo Espoo was attacked shortly after Iraq reported its warplanes raided two vessels off the Iranian coast in eight hours.

The Igloo Espoo, loaded with Saudi Arabian petroleum products, was attacked around noon at the bend of the strait, the narrow gateway to the Gulf, said sources quoted by AP.

The tanker, a liquefied petroleum gas carrier, was en route to South Korea.

A spokesman for the ship's Norwegian operators said the vessel sustained "several hits by missiles as well as from machine guns."

Earlier, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi warplanes "scored accurate and effective hits" on two "large naval targets," usually a reference to oil tankers.

The report said one ship was struck at 9:20 p.m. (1820 GMT) Thursday and the other at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT) Friday.

There was no immediate confirmation of the Iraqi report, the latest in the so-called tanker war, an offshoot of the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The first Iranian attack this year on a ship in the Gulf came Thursday.

Shipping sources said two Filipino crewmen were injured when an Iranian gunboat fired on the 35,731-tonne Liberian tanker Petrobulk Pioneer in territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The dawn attack left the chemical tanker's funnel, hull and accommodation quarters riddled with holes. But damage was relatively minor and the ship — heading in ballast for the Saudi port of Jubail — was able to sail on to Dubai.

Meanwhile, Iran's top war spokesman said Friday Iranian forces were on full alert for a new

offensive against Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

"Our forces are on full alert, waiting for the order to launch the operation," it quoted parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Hasbemi Rafsanjani as saying at Tehran's mass Friday prayers meeting.

"Most Iraqi provinces from Duhok (on the Turkish border) to Fao (on the Gulf) are exposed to attacks by our forces," the radio quoted him as saying.

Rafsanjani also warned Arab Gulf states to stop backing Iraq.

A senior Gulf official who visited Tehran last week said Thursday Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were likely to open talks in Abu Dhabi shortly in a bid to resolve their differences.

Saif Sa'ed, GCC affairs chief at the UAE Foreign Ministry, said contacts with Tehran had been positive so far.

Iran praised Syria Thursday for efforts to arrange talks with the Gulf Arab states.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA reported that Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to his Syrian counterpart calling for easing Gulf tensions through negotiations among coastal states.

Mr. Velayati "also praised Syrian efforts in this respect" in the letter delivered Wednesday to Farouk Al Sharara, IRNA reported.

Syrian newspapers said Thursday the message dealt with current contacts between the two countries on the situation in the Gulf and "the necessity of removing tension and solving the existing problems through dialogue among the countries of the region."

Mr. Sharara accompanied Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam on a tour of Arab Gulf states earlier this month after a shuttle between Tehran and Riyadh to try to find a peaceful solution to the war.

Soviets: Iran arms ban may be necessary At the United Nations, Soviet

(Continued on page 3)

Soviets table new arms control proposal

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union made new offers on cutting superpower intercontinental nuclear arms by half and curbing space weapons at a special negotiating session with the United States Friday.

Soviet arms delegation leader Alexei Onukhov said the new proposals covered ways of implementing an agreement in principle to cut intercontinental-range weapons by half, to 6,000 warheads on each side, and limit space arms.

The meeting at the Soviet diplomatic mission lasted an hour and 40 minutes. It included 20 strong teams on each side. The superpowers opened their ninth round of arms talks Thursday.

President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told negotiators to complete a treaty to halve strategic, or intercontinental, nuclear arms as soon as possible — preferably in time for signing at a summer summit in Moscow.

Chief American arms negotiator Max Kampelman entered the session with Henry Cooper, head of the U.S. team on long-range arms, and Read Hamner, head of the team discussing space and defence weapons.

U.S. arms delegation spokesman Terry Schroeder said the Soviets presented a single document which covered both long-range and space weapons.

"The emphasis was on defence and space arms," he added, but declined to give details. "We will study it carefully."

Schroeder said the presentation by Mr. Onukhov was followed by a good deal of discussion between the two delegations. Mr. Kampelman left for Washington shortly after the meeting concluded.

Soviet negotiators requested the special session late Thursday night and Mr. Kampelman had to delay his plans to leave for Washington Friday morning.

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PARIS (Agencies) — Fifteen expelled Iranian and Turkish refugees returned to France and Spain on Thursday night in what commentators said was a humiliating policy reversal by conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

to how to the pressure of opinion."

Socialists and human rights activists said Mr. Chirac caved in to domestic and international outrage over the expulsions and the hunger strikes by the refugees' families and sympathisers in Paris, London and Washington.

Under an agreement between Paris and officials of the People's Mujahadeen organisation, the main opposition group to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the 15 were allowed to return "on condition they ceased any militant activities."

The Spanish government agreed to accept eight of the refugees — five Iranians and three Turks — and the rest ar-

Mr. Chirac, interviewed on French television, said he would announce his plans for standing for president on Saturday. Party sources say he will definitely announce he is running.

Commentators said Mr. Chirac, trailing caudillon partner Raymond Barre and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in opinion polls ahead of the April poll, was losing support because of his tough line on the refugees.

Mr. Chirac told the television interviewer that Iranian dissidents in Paris had agreed to halt their protests in France against Tehran in return for his agreement to allow the 15 to return.

LIBERVILLE (R) — Experts examining the rival sovereignty claims of Chad and Libya to the Aouzou Strip are meeting in the Gabonese capital in an effort to lay the groundwork for a settlement of the dispute.

The conference, which began on Wednesday under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), is attended by legal experts and cartographers

from an OAU special committee made up of Algeria, Cameroun, Gabon, Mozambique, Nigeria and Senegal.

Chad and Libya, which both claim sovereignty over the Aouzou Strip along their border, were due to send observers.

The experts were studying historical maps and documents submitted by Chad and Libya as well

GAZA (Agencies) — For five weeks, revolt has kept the children of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip from their U.N. schools. Now U.N. doctors are finding it hard to reach their health centres in refugee camps under curfew or besieged by the Israeli army and the distribution of emergency food rations has been disrupted.

stones.
Camp streets are bumpy dust-tracks in summer, flooded mud-baths oozing with reeking sewage in winter.

A further 195,000 Palestinian refugees live outside the camps in overflowing towns, rehabilitation suburbs and villages in the Gaza Strip, almost a third of which is cordoned off for Jewish settle-

"The health centres are open but in some places patients don't dare leave their homes to go there," said K.E. Worm, an international UNRWA relief worker on temporary duty in Gaza. "We have virtually stopped the supplementary feeding programme for deprived young children and pregnant women because of

"Iranian rulers are adopting a policy whose aim is to harm all states in the region including the Iranian people," King Fahd told Al Ahram newspaper.

"This approach serves the ends of international Zionism which constantly seeks to spread discord in the Islamic nation to undermine it," the monarch said.

He said the Iranian people were suffering because they have

The agency, which provides health, education and welfare services to Palestinian refugees throughout the Middle East, is struggling to carry out its functions against mounting odds in the Gaza Strip, centre of the present uprising against Israeli rule.

UNRWA, with headquarters in Vienna, is the largest employer in the strip, with more than 4,000 Palestinian employees. The agency is caught in a difficult position between the Israeli occupiers, who regard it as a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism but value its \$40 million a year welfare services, and the protesters, with whom many of its staff have a natural sympathy.

"We used to try to keep older boys from entering our schools

In Rome, A.U.N. official on Wednesday appealed for urgent international medical and food aid to Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Giorgio Giacomelli, general commissioner of UNRWA said there had been "an alarming paralysis" in basic services for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

He said residents were facing "terrible living conditions" as a result of the unrest between

Syrian Foreign Minister Fawzi Al Sharr, who was

More than two thirds of the estimated 650,000 Palestinians in the teeming coastal strip are refugees, people who fled their homes in the 1948 war and their descendants.

From 1948 to 1967, the Gaza Strip was under Egyptian rule. Israel occupied it in the 1967 Middle East war.

More than 20 years later, some 240,000 refugees are crammed

and encouraging our young elementary school pupils out into the streets to demonstrate," said an UNRWA headmistress in Khan Yunis.

"Now nobody is coming to school. They are all out demonstrating. Can you blame them?" she said.

With great difficulty, UNRWA is managing to keep health centres open inside the refugee camps. One of their main tasks at present is giving first aid to

Mr. Giacomelli said at least 35 people have been killed, hundreds injured and 2,000 arrested in the rebellion.

"I ask the international community, every government, to adopt a series of urgent acts, including immediate assistance in the form of provisions and medicine to Palestinian refugees, whose situation in recent weeks has become dramatic," Mr.

"Reciprocal visits between Saudi and Syrian officials are part of joint cooperation aimed at exchanging views," he said.

Saudi Arabia and its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said after a summit in Riyadh last month they would press for sanctions against Tehran unless it accented a U.N. Security

They live in cramped, tin-roofed shelters, sometimes held together with sheets of plastic, metal drums, driftwood and

One day this week, the health centre in Jabalya Refugee Camp received 40 casualties, including 11 with bullet wounds. Many had been beaten and several over-

He said Palestinians were also in desperate need of running water, improved sanitation, housing and working opportunities.

King Fahd said his talks last Saturday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yielded positive results.

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher began a visit to Syria Friday, praising President Hafez Assad and saying he looks "forward with great interest" to his talks in Damascus.

Mr. Genscher is the highest ranking Bonn official to visit Damascus since the European Community imposed sanctions against Syria after it was implicated in a 1986 plot to blow up an Israeli airliner in London. Syria denied the charges.

Government sources in Bonn indicated Thursday that West Germany, which hold the current presidency of the EC presidency, would like the sanctions against Syria lifted.

"I am happy to visit Syria again and to have the chance to continue dialogue with Syrian officials, and follow up important issues connected with international policy," Mr. Genscher said in a statement at Damascus airport.

"There is a deep convergence of points of view between our two countries," he said.

Mr. Genscher was greeted on arrival by his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Al Sharara.

During his two-day stay, Mr. Genscher was expected to meet with Mr. Assad and other Syrian officials.

In his arrival statement, Mr. Genscher said: "We appreciate the responsible and important role played by President Assad and Syria in this region. Therefore, it is important for us at this stage precisely to exchange views and dialogue based on responsibility by the two sides."

He said: "I will discuss bilateral relations and I am looking forward and with great interest to my talks in Syria."

The West German Foreign Ministry said Thursday that Mr. Genscher's talks would also touch on the 7-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, the situation in Lebanon and chances for an international Middle East peace conference.

Syria is Iran's main Arab ally and has recently launched a mediation effort between Gulf Arab states and Iran to contain hostilities in the region.

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian leaders have rallied to a ruling by supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on state powers which opens the way for reformist legislation on controversial economic issues.

The public display of unity came after Khomeini sided with reform-minded groups in the leadership and declared last week the Islamic government had absolute powers and could nullify Islamic contracts if they were harmful to state interests.

The ruling, Khomeini's strongest pronouncement on the crucial issue of state authority,

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israel's "iron fist" brutal repression of Palestinians in the occupied territories will not serve the interests of Israelis nor the cause of peace in the region, a director of a Swedish children's organisation working here has said.

According to Dr. Stefan Johnson, the ongoing popular uprising, led by children in the West Bank and Gaza, has given Palestinians renewed pride in the continuity of the Palestinian struggle through the new genera-

"Forceful measures adopted by the occupying Israeli forces will not make docile and submissive generations out of Palestinians," Dr. Johnson, a paediatrician told the Jordan Times, rather, "it will feed their sense of rebellion and make things even more difficult for the Israelis."

Dr. Johnson, who has just returned from a working tour of the Gaza Strip, said "the sight of children leading the fight against occupation, and the overriding sense of courage on their part, is everywhere."

This, he added, "indicates that there is a growing frustration with the stalemate in the occupied territories and that the children feel they have nothing to lose."

maybe something to gain."

"The feeling of frustration in this particular uprising is not felt by the Palestinians alone," said Dr. Johnson, "when I was in Gaza I tried to look into the eyes of the Israeli soldiers and I saw that they feel frustrated too. What's more," he added, "they are frightened."

Dr. Johnson believes that the psychological repercussions of first hand experience with violence for the small children may breed hostile characteristics in their personality that is bound to reflect negatively on the Israelis.

Dr. Johnson, who worked closely with children in Gaza, Beirut, Chile and Uganda, through his job with the Swedish Save the Children Foundation, said that the likelihood is that "if faced with a peaceful situation these children will not be able to handle it."

The Swedish doctor believes that the Palestinian children's hatred of Israelis is in no way similar to the hatred experienced by other children who did not have a first hand experience with Israeli troops.

"The children in the occupied territories are coming into closer contact with violence at an early age, they see their brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers beaten and in some cases killed," he said. "that this breeds hatred and 'in a war situation is good because it gives courage to the children to continue the fighting.'"

"It has been our experience that if a child is faced with this type of situation when he is young, it is very difficult for him to remain psychologically healthy." Dr. Johnson added that children's personalities are affected in one of two ways.

"The child will either become depressed, apathetic and nervous or aggressive. And usually it is easier to turn aggressive because then you will be doing something to fight the enemy," he said.

The problem will arise only if the source of hatred ceases to exist, and a peaceful situation is restored. "The children will not know where to vent their anger. It has been our experience with children of war in Chile that most of these children turn into mafia-like groups who start harassing people."

The impact on the psyche of the children is great and in many cases irreversible "because it becomes part of their character," Dr. Johnson said. Psychiatrists and psychologists alike agree that changing characteristics of a personality is one of the most difficult things to achieve.

The Swedish Save the Children Foundation, works closely with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) in the West Bank and Gaza, by funding projects which aim at bettering the health education of mothers and their children in the occupied territories and especially the Gaza Strip.

AMMAN (J.T.) — 1,000 people from all over the world signed a petition, published in Thursday's Jerusalem Post, in which they called for the realisation of Palestinian aspirations and regional stability.

stressed the importance of an end to the prolonged Israeli-Arab conflict, to terror and violence, bloodshed and suffering and to the ruling of one people over another.

The petition was a result of a mass signature drive, in Israel and around the world, which was signed by public figures, Jewish and non Jewish, scholars, intellectuals, statesmen, members of governments and parliaments, who collectively endorse the appeal of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East.

The petition, which went under the motto "Let 1987 Be the Year of Peace for the Middle East,"

fact that twenty years have elapsed since the six day war, ten years since the separate signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, "and it has become evident that the conflict cannot be resolved by force." The signatories called on all sides of the conflict to forego the use of violence of any kind.

"The time has come to establish peace based on mutual recognition, territorial compromise, and self-determination." The

But within a week members of the Guardian Council, a 12-man body of clerigymen and lawyers with veto power over parliament and a bastion of traditionalist views — fell into line and joined other officials in praising Khomeini's landmark verdict.

President Ali Khamenei, whose interpretation of the role of the state was rejected by Khomeini as too narrow, declared he accepted Khomeini's views as "inviolable principles of Islam."

WASHINGTON (R) — A spokesman for Vice President George Bush has implied that Mr. Bush criticised U.S. Iran arms sales at President Reagan's daily intelligence briefings, the Washington Post said on Friday.

It also quoted former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan as saying he recalled Mr. Bush expressing reservations at some of those meetings.

Mr. Bush has refused to say if he criticised the Iran arms sale policy to Mr. Regan but said this week he did express reservations about it in the presence of others.

The Post quoted a Bush

spokesman as implying the criticism was made at the Reagan intelligence briefings, held daily at 9:30 a.m., by saying: "Everybody knows who is in the 9:30 a.m. meeting. The person most often there was Don Regan."

Mr. Bush has come under pressure from other Republican presidential candidates in the past two weeks to specify how much he knew about the arms sales and if he tried to stop them.

In a statement published by the newspaper on Thursday, Mr. Bush said he expressed concern that Israel's involvement reduced U.S. control over the sales.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS ★ A painting exhibition by German artist Ingeborg Grosjean at the Spanish Cultural Centre. ★ An exhibition about medical research in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28). VIDEO ★ Video for children entitled "The War of Buttons" (in German) at 4.00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute. PIANO RECITALS ★ Piano recitals by Peter Schnulffus at 8.00 p.m. at the Aurora Hotel.		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 55300-5, where it should always be verified.		NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Ramzi Mezzaw 794788 Dr. Walid Yacoub 794811 Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024 Dr. Zein Zaghoul 638591 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdyous pharmacy 773333 Al Asena pharmacy 637055 Naurokh pharmacy 623677 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 640465 Shmeisan pharmacy 637660 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816 Akleah Maternity, J. Amn. 642412 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Mahab, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisan 664174 Shmeisan Hospital 669931 University Hospital 845845/55 Al-Musader Hospital 667279 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57 Al-Ash, Abdali 664164/65 Qadisiyah taxi 637349 TAXIS: Rainbow taxi 637340 Nabha taxi 663030 Karnak taxi 669761 Osher taxi 650406 Jihad taxi 673660 Qassan taxi 671620 Laith taxi 793538 Qadisiyah taxi 637349 DRBD: Dr. Mauro Abu Baker 274699 Shura'a pharmacy 788325 ZARQA: Dr. Hashim Sharabati 986632 Khalafah pharmacy 985417	
PROGRAMME ONE 15.30 Koran 15.50 Programme Review 16.30 Children's programme 16.30 The Bunny 16.40 Eureka 16.45 How Things Work 17.10 Wonders of the World 17.20 Winter Olympic Games 19.00 Arabic series 19.00 Message from Iraq 19.40 Family programme 19.40 Programme review 20.00 News in Arabic 20.00 Arabic series 21.25 Programme on Arabic 22.00 Varieties 22.00 News Summary in Arabic 23.10 Varieties cont.		ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06.30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 09.30 Cairo (RJ) 09.30 Kuwait (RJ) 09.30 Damascus (RJ) 09.30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 09.50 Dhahran (RJ) 09.50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 10.00 Agaba (RJ) 16.45 Cairo (RJ) 17.25 New York, Vienna (RJ) 17.40 Athens (RJ) 18.05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 19.40 Tripoli (RJ) 23.05 Agaba (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 02.45 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU) 13.40 Kuwait (KU) 14.45 Tripoli (LU) 15.00 Riyadh (SV) 16.45 Cairo (MS) 17.45 Rome (AF) 23.25 Paris, Damascus (AF)		PRAYER TIMES 05:12 Fajr 06:34 (Sunrise) Dhuhr 11:45 Dhur 14:33 Asr 16:57 Maghrib 18:19 'Isha THURSDAY RATES Local sell-off rates in the Belgian franc 97.4 / 92.2 Dutch guilder 181.4 / 184.2 French franc 60.4 / 61.5 Italian lire 27.1 / 28.2 Japanese yen (for 100) 262.9 / 263.8 Swedish crown 56.1 / 57.2 Swiss franc 250.2 / 254.8 U.K. sterling pound 607.4 / 618.6 U.S. dollar 352.1 / 337.3 W. German mark 203.9 / 207.6			
PROGRAMME TWO 18.00 News in French 19.15 French varieties; Un OB de plus 19.30 News in Hebrew 19.45 Science World 20.00 News in Arabic 20.30 Sorry (Comedy) 21.00 Magazine Zero One 21.10 Saturday Variety Show 22.00 News in English 22.20 Feature film: "The Shepherd of the Hills"		CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawwehbeh, Tel. 627440 De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757 Terestastia Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawwehbeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 623266 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541 Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 623535 chaplain's residence tel. 601359 Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261 St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751 Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisan, Tel. 677534. St. George's Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295. Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Queen's Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6.30 p.m. Tel. 622605, Rev. Yeh. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) 815917, 821264		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:15 Agaba (RJ) 07:45 Agaba (RJ) 10:45 Tripoli (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:20 Athens (RJ) 11:30 Paris (RJ) 11:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 11:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ) 12:00 London (RJ) 12:00 Frankfurt (RJ) 12:30 Cairo (RJ) 19:25 Kuwait (RJ) 19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:00 Jeddah (RJ) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 04:05 Istanbul, Belgrade (JU) 06:10 Frankfurt (JU)			
RAJIO JORDAN 535 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 9560 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19		MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Selese Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Jordan and Arabia (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qai' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.		WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be cloudy to partly cloudy, with chances for scattered showers associated with thunder activities at times. Winds will be northwesterly moderate in Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with winds and showers, and winds will be southerly fresh and calm sea. Min./max. temp. Amman 2 / 7 Agaba 8 / 15 Deteris 2 / 10 Jordan Valley 8 / 13 Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 80 per cent, Agaba 65 per cent.			
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 720, 9565, 11740, 11825 and 15110 Hz. 06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 News 17:20 American Conference: USA 18:00 News 18:10 American News points 18:30 Special English News & Features 19:00 News 19:10 Weekend 20:00 News 20:10 Closeup 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Conference: USA 21:30 Press Conference, USA 22:00 News 22:10 Music, USA 22:30 News 22:45 Editorial 23:00 News 23:10 Communications World 23:30 Weekend Magazine		GENERAL Jordan Television 773111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Amman Telephone 666112 Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Queswich 770735 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 196		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fil per kg. Apple (different kinds) 300 / 250 Apple (French) 420 / 360 Apple (green) 470 / 480 Banana (medium) 350 / 300 Banana (large) 470 / 240 Beans 260 / 200 Beans (broad) 550 / 450 Cabbage 70 / 40 Carrot 120 / 200 Cucumber 220 / 170 Dates (bon) 1100 / 800 Eggplant (large) 80 / 50 Garlic 280 / 200 Grapefruit 130 / 100 Lemon 140 / 100 Mandarin 170 / 120 Marrow 130 / 100 Onion (green) 120 / 80 Onion (dry) 200 / 170 Oranges (Abu surra) 280 / 220 Oranges (Shamouti) 220 / 180 Pepper (hot) 220 / 160 Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80 Pineapple 150 / 100 Radish 100 / 60 Spinach 160 / 120 Tomatoes 150 / 100 Turnip 150 / 100			

U.S. congressmen depart after meeting with King

AMMAN (J.T.) — American congressmen Jack Buechner and Marvin Dymally left Jordan Friday evening after a one-day visit to the Kingdom during which they met with His Majesty King Hussein.

King Hussein told the two congressmen in separate meetings Thursday that the uprising in the occupied Arab territories came as a natural outcome of Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and its repressive measures against the Arab population.

His Majesty also said that no genuine and just peace could be achieved in the region outside the framework of an international conference attended by all concerned parties and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

In an interview with Reuters, Congressman Buechner, a Republican from Missouri, said that the King "hopes the United States will use its offices to en-

courage such a conference." Mr. Buechner, who came to Jordan after an eight-day trip to Israel, also said that negotiations were needed to solve the problem of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli decisionmakers could not ignore the long-term demographic and political implications of the occupation. "They need to do more than whistle past the graveyard," he said.

The congressman said that during his meeting with Israeli officials in the occupied territories, he detected a "grudging admittance" by some Israeli leaders that the agitation by the new generation in the West Bank and Gaza is mostly internal — a new phase.

"They were surprised by the continuity of the uprising," he said, adding that an official told him, "the sands in the hourglass are running out faster than we anticipated."



His Majesty King Hussein meets with American Congressman Jack Buechner for discussions on recent developments in the occupied territories (Petra photo).

Jordan, Egypt to discuss science and technology links

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of Scientific Research Adel Izz is due here Sunday at the head of a delegation visiting Jordan upon the invitation of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khathib. The ministers will be discussing ways to boost bilateral relations in the fields of scientific research

and technology. Mr. Izz and his accompanying delegation will also visit and meet with officials at a number of institutions concerned with technology and scientific research, such as the Higher Council of Science and Technology and the Royal Scientific Society.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatar University delegation visits

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from Qatar University arrived here Friday for a 10-day visit to Jordan within the framework of a cooperation agreement between Jordanian and Qatari universities. The 22-member delegation from the university's Faculty of Science will pay field visits to various regions of the Kingdom.

Jordan takes part in Arab doctors panel

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the meetings of the Higher Council of the Arab Doctors Union which open here today. During their two-day meetings, the participants will approve the union's plan of action for 1988 and discuss preparations for the union's 24th session, which will open here on Jan. 19. Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi is heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings.

Energy training course begins

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khathib today opens a training course for directors of energy departments in public and private institutions. During the two-week course, organised in cooperation with the European Community (EC), the participants will hear lectures on topics related to energy management and conservation.

King: U.S. dragging its feet in Mideast peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

the problem and say the foundation of a just and durable peace in the Middle East before it is too late, the King said in the interview, which was also broadcast by Jordan Television Thursday evening.

Asked why the uprising broke out now, the King said that it was because the Palestinians before the 1970s had been looking to the Arab states to help ensure their rights and their land and later they looked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to achieve that goal.

Time passed and nothing happened and that is why the Arab territory is currently witnessing an uprising of new dimension emanating from inside the occupied territory with people struggling for their freedom, the King said.

The King said Jordan had been trying its best to alleviate the sufferings of the Arab people under Israeli rule and also trying to end Israel's occupation but obstacles laid by Israeli extremists and the influence which Israel has on the decisionmakers in the United States had prevented the convening of an international conference that would deal with the problem and come up with a solution that would be acceptable to the future generations.

In reply to a question on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's recent statements in which he rejected the idea of an international conference, the King said that Mr. Shamir wants to maintain Israel's hold over all the occupied territories and all of Palestine and at the same time talk about peace. Mr. Shamir

does not want to pull Israeli forces from any part of the occupied Arab regions which he considers as part of Israel and therefore it is impossible to try to reach a positive result with someone with such mentality, the King said.

The King added that peace should be based on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the concept of swapping land for peace within a comprehensive settlement in which all concerned parties to the problem, including the Palestinian people, should be able to participate.

On prospects of Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres winning the next general elections in Israel and starting negotiations for peace, the King said Israeli elections were an issue of the Israeli people. On the other hand, he noted that during the current uprising Mr. Peres has called for convening of an international peace conference to achieve peace and has talked about a solution to the Middle East problem through the proposed conference.

The King said Jordan would have the PLO with it in the peacemaking process in accordance with the February 11, 1985 Amman accord in which Jordan and the PLO agreed to proceed together towards the establishment of peace.

Jordan will like to see Palestinians handling the problem by themselves and seek the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 338, which calls for the international conference, and Resolution 242, which clearly emphasises the inadmissibility of occupying other coun-

Jordan celebrates Arbor Day today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates Arbor Day with tree-planting ceremonies throughout the country.

His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor will take part in ceremonies in areas around the capital, while governors and officials will lead celebrations in other parts of the Kingdom.

King Hussein will participate in the main planting ceremony at Al Hussein Garden in the Abu Nusair area, where the Ministry of Agriculture plans to plant trees on 250 dunums.

Queen Noor will attend Arbor Day ceremonies at Tlaa Al Ali, Um Al Summaq and Khilda, as well as open two public gardens.

The ceremonies, in which representatives of various public and private organisations will take part, were organised by the Greater Amman Municipality.

On the eve of the occasion, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that fruit and forest trees will be planted during the celebrations, particularly in and around the Abu Nusair housing estate.

The Ministry of Agriculture has adopted over the past years a policy which aims to green Jordan, according to Mr. Hmoud.

He said that, in recent years, Jordan has introduced modern technology in agriculture and has greatly increased agricultural output through major production schemes.

In the current five-year plan, the ministry plans to invest a total

of JD 293 million in agriculture, compared with JD 233 million in the previous plan, the minister noted.

He said that these investments aim at raising the percentage of national income from agriculture from JD 97 million to JD 138 million annually, especially by increasing cereal and lean meat production.

Mr. Hmoud said that, having implemented major production schemes in the Jordan Valley, the Ministry of Agriculture is now involved in projects covering 30,000 dunums in the highlands, at a cost of JD 1.5 million.

The minister cited a project for developing 13.5 million dunums in the Zarqa River Basin, and another for developing 1.7 million dunums at Wadi Duleil as examples of the ministry's projects.

He said the highlands projects entail measures for preventing soil erosion and increasing productivity and local income.

Mr. Hmoud said, the ministry will begin in April a project at Rweishid, as a first step towards developing the Hamad Basin area near the Iraqi border.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Lawzi told Petra that the ministry was going ahead with the application of the agricultural patterns system aimed at increasing production for local consumption and export.

Increasing the volume of cereal and meat production is the main concern of the ministry,

with the ultimate goal of ensuring food security for Jordan, according to Dr. Lawzi.

He said that in order to encourage farmers' production, the ministry last year spent JD 9.5 million on purchasing locally-produced cereals. In addition, it continues to provide improved seeds and advice to farmers and to explore ways to increase production.

As a part of this policy, Dr. Lawzi said, the ministry offered state-owned land in Disi and Sahi Suwwan for lease to major companies for development; as a result, 1.4 million dunums are currently being exploited for the production of 150,000 tonnes of cereals annually.

In an interview with Petra, Director of Afforestation and Range Department at the Ministry of Agriculture Ghaleb Abu Arrabi said that since 1939, Jordan has maintained a policy of planting trees and greening the Kingdom.

The total area covered by trees now stand at 304,117 dunums. All of the saplings came from the ministry's 12 nurseries, that last year produced nine million trees, Mr. Arrabi noted.

He said this year, 4.5 million saplings will be distributed to various organisations and individuals.

Mr. Khaleel Wreikat from the Ministry of Agriculture said that this year, the ministry will plant trees on 30,000 dunums in 33 locations throughout the Kingdom, at an approximate cost of JD 1.5 million.

Birth spacing workshop begins

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thirty-two Ministry of Health nurses, midwives and physicians are attending a two-week workshop which begins here today.

They will learn clinical techniques for providing birth spacing services to families.

This is the first of four workshops in a series that includes training in counselling, evaluation and management.

The workshop is being taught by Dr. Dorgham Bibi of Tunis, who has worked with the Johns Hopkins Programme for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics (JHPIEGO). Dr. Bibi is an expert in clinical applications of birth spacing.

Also teaching in the workshop is Dr. Taher Amouri, a social psychologist who has worked with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and evaluated birth spacing projects in African and Middle Eastern countries.

The ministry is providing the training under an agreement with RONCO, a U.S.-based consulting firm recognised for its expertise in international development, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

At the end of the two-week session, RONCO staff will assist participants in practising their new skills in their home clinics.

GUVS allocates funds to support Palestinian uprising

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Executive Council recently allocated JD 32,000 to support the current Palestinian uprising against the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories.

The funds will be distributed to families of martyrs and prisoners by the unions of voluntary societies in Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron.

The GUVS council further decided to allocate JD 15,000 to support a programme for eradicating illiteracy in the occupied territories.

Commenting on the allocation decisions, GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib said that support from the voluntary sector in Jordan reflected its support for

the struggle and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

This support also reflects the firm conviction that the people in the East and West Banks of Jordan share common interests and aspirations, according to Dr. Khatib.

In addition, he appealed to Arab and foreign voluntary institutions to condemn aggressive Israeli practices which violate international laws and norms, and to pressure the Israeli authorities to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The council also decided to allocate a total of JD 12,000 to voluntary societies in the various governorates of the East Bank of Jordan.

Israeli soldiers storm mosques

(Continued from page 1)

soldier opened fire, killing Nahal and injuring the soldier.

Meanwhile, in the occupied West Bank, two Palestinians were wounded by Israeli gunfire in the town of Salfit after dozens of Arabs left a mosque following prayers and started to attack a local police station, Israel Radio said.

The radio said the army clamped a curfew on the town after the incident. Curfews remained in force Friday on refugee camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, affecting some 250,000.

Police said they arrested five people at the Gaza demonstration which came after leaflets called for prayers and processions on a "victims day" in memory of Palestinians killed during the past five weeks of protests.

On Thursday, a 30-year-old Arab was shot and killed when he allegedly wandered onto an army firing range in the West Bank, the army said. A military official said the event was an accident and was unrelated to the protests.

Israel also detained 10 prominent Palestinians Thursday in an apparent clampdown on activists suspected of inciting resistance to the Israeli occupation. Two detainees were rounded up while attending a news conference. Six of the arrested were released later Thursday.

Among those arrested were editor Hanna Siniora of Jerusalem's Al Fajr daily and Fayez Abu Rahme, head of the Gaza lawyers union. They were both released from custody by night-fall.

Editor Salah Zuheikheh of the daily Al Shaab was ordered held for six months without trial, sources said.

Mr. Siniora spoke to a conference of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East Thursday night after his release.

"The Palestinians are ready to

recognise the state of Israel but Israel must recognise our right to a state and the PLO's (Palestine Liberation Organisation) place in it," he said.

U.S. Consul-General Morris Draper said in a speech at the Hebrew University.

"Israel has to find a way to let the Palestinian people breathe a little. We have to offer something to those young people out there throwing rocks. They have to have something besides the badge of martyrdom."

Military authorities also detained three other doctors and lawyers in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Mr. Siniora said his detention prevented a planned meeting with United Nations envoy Marack Goulding, who is touring the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to gather information for a report to the United Nations about living conditions for Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Goulding visited Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem Thursday, and told Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij he was "appalled" by the situation in refugee camps. Mr. Freij told the AP.

As another indication of growing international concern over more than five weeks of protests, Paul Hunt of Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, began a fact-finding mission in Gaza.

The other detained journalists were Ghassan Ayub, who was released after about an hour, and Salah Zuheikhi, Mohammad Zuheikhi and Abdul Latif Gheith, who were arrested at their homes before dawn and were still being held late Thursday, police said.

The Gaza military government detained another leading lawyer, Khalid Al Kidra, along with Zahariya Alagha and Haidar Abdul Shafe, leaders of the Gaza medical community. All four were released Thursday evening after about 10 hours of questioning.

Soviets table new proposals

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Ohukhov and Mr. Kampelman met for lunch when the talks opened Thursday but the senior Soviet negotiator told reporters he made no mention of the planned new offer.

The separate teams on long-range arms and space weapons were to meet Friday to discuss the Soviet proposals further. Lem Masterkov heads the Soviet team on long-range weapons and Yuri

Kuznetsov leads the team on space arms.

The superpowers have argued bitterly over defence and space weapons since resuming their arms control effort in March 1985, and a summit in Iceland in October 1986 broke down with angry exchanges on the issue.

The dispute centres on the strategic defence initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars" project, launched by Mr. Reagan in March 1983.

New Senate today holds first session, internal elections

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three distinguished Jordanians join the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) today as they take the oath during a session in which internal elections will select two deputy speakers and two assistants to the speaker.

Mohammad Kamal, Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani and Faridoun Hikmat will replace senators Wasfi Mirza, Ali Hassan Odeh and Farid Al Sa'ad, according to a Jan. 8 Royal Decree that also reinstated the membership of the 27 other senators. The decree was issued four days before the Senate's previous four-year term officially ended.

The three entrants have held various positions before being named as members in the 30-member Senate appointed by His Majesty King Hussein.

Until last Saturday, both Mr. Kamal and Mr. Keilani served as Jordan's ambassadors to the U.S. and to Saudi Arabia, respectively.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Hikmat was director of the Jordan Tourism Investments Cor-

poration.

Today's session is the first following the Senate's appointment.

The chamber's internal elections will also form the House's four permanent committees on legal, financial, administrative and foreign affairs, and two other ad hoc committees on occupied territories affairs and education.

Parliamentary analysts said Friday they expected no major changes in the Senate's five-man permanent council which, in addition to the Senate speaker, comprises two deputy speakers and two assistant speakers.

The analysts based their judgment on the fact that the Jan. 8 decision did not introduce any major changes to the House's structure, as it maintained 90 per cent of the previous senators and extended for a third term the

mandate of Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi.

The Senate speakership is decided by a Royal Decree every two years during the House's four-year term.

Mr. Lawzi, a former Royal Court Chief, has held this position for three consecutive terms since 1984.

With the exception of having to elect a successor to Mr. Odeh, who left the House following the Senate reappointments, analysts speculate that the same senators will fill the second, third and fourth seats of the five-man council.

Senators Hikmat Al Masri and Abdul Rahman Khalifeh are expected to be reelected as first and second deputy speakers and Mr. Ammer Khammash, a former court minister, is expected to maintain his position as first assistant to the speaker. The three senators have maintained these positions since 1984.

During its session, the Senate will also refer to its committees two draft amendments to the 1960 penal code and the 1982 legislation governing the activities of the zakai (alms for the poor) fund, respectively.

QAF continues to assist handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) was the first institution in Jordan to take care of and rehabilitate the handicapped, according to Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of the QAF.

In an interview with the Al Tadamon Arabic language magazine published in London, Princess Basma said that the QAF continues to provide assistance to all institutions caring for the handicapped and their families. This aid, she said, contributes to alleviating the suffering of the handicapped and enabling

them to interact in society.

Princess Basma explained that the fund also continues to coordinate its work with charitable and voluntary societies in Jordan, with the aim of improving the living standard of needy families, particularly those families with members who suffer from handicaps. The QAF cooperates with government agencies and departments, as well, in administering its assistance, she said.

Apart from the QAF, Princess Basma said, the Kingdom now has a host of organisations and societies that offer help to the handicapped and the needy.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma

Training in U.S. offered to private sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's private sector businesses can send key personnel for specialised training in the United States with help from the Ministry of Planning and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Nine businesspeople in the Participant Training Programme have completed their training, and returned to their jobs in Jordan at this time.

Jamil Nasr, who heads the structural department at Habib Associates, a firm of architects, engineers and planners, returned in August from a 6-week Project and Programme Management course given by Arthur D. Little in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mr. Nasr is responsible for structural engineering, project management, resolving disputes between clients and contractors and general management for the firm of some 30 engineers.

He brought back with him greater confidence about the importance of teamwork, ideas for organisation structure and a trophy for giving the best presentation in the class of 53 multinational project managers.

Mr. Nasr studied costing, planning, human resource manage-

ment, teamwork, project evaluation and other subjects. His instructors included Mr. David Hilstrom, cost engineer for the Al Wahda Dam; Mr. Donald Meals, who directed management training for Petron in Saudi Arabia; Mr. Jvars Avots, who directed planning and introduction of the Boeing 707 airplane; and other distinguished instructors.

The method of instruction utilised hypothetical projects, and assigned the students to eight teams of six members each to propose approaches to sample project management problems. This gave the students immediate experience of working in teams with the same kinds of challenges they face in their own day to day business situations.

"It's a fact," reported Mr. Nasr, "my group was always the top team." The team included professionals from Chile, Burma, Taiwan, Pakistan and Liberia. They selected Mr. Nasr to head up their group, and he immediately led the group in establishing mutually agreeable policy and procedure. This common understanding about each person's role and how disputes would be solved helped the team

produce outstanding results throughout the seminar.

Mr. Nasr fondly remembers the teamwork that won his group the trophy, and, in particular, the team member who stood behind the audience to remind Mr. Nasr to smile during presentations. The organisers of the course intend to use the work process of Mr. Nasr's team as a model for future classes.

The Ministry of Planning in cooperation with USAID is recruiting women and men who are Jordanian citizens with good written and spoken English to participate in similar training opportunities. Participants will study at American universities such as Harvard, the University of California, Georgetown University and others, and many American businesses in fields that are proving helpful to the private sector in Jordan, such as quality control, marketing and financial management. Participants must be employed in private sector enterprises, and they or their employers must contribute towards the cost. Training specialists at USAID help participants to select a programme of study and make all arrangements.

Tanker war rages

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador Alexander Belonogov said Thursday, a Security Council resolution to impose an arms embargo against Iran in a bid to end its war with Iraq may become necessary.

But he told reporters U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar should first have more talks with the two sides. Those consultations would provide the necessary answers, he said.

"We think that there may be a time when such a resolution will become absolutely necessary," Mr. Belonogov said in response to a question about U.S. and British proposals that the Security Council impose an arms ban.

Mr. Belonogov also said support was gathering for a Soviet proposal for a U.N. naval force to keep open the Gulf waterways to international shipping.

"We received with satisfaction the news that president (Hosni) Mubarak spoke in favour of a U.N. naval force during his stay in Riyadh," he said in a reference to the Egyptian leader.

Mr. Belonogov said the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia had also publicly supported the idea.

"Little by little, step by step, this idea is gaining recognition and support," he said.

But it was too early to say how it would develop in the consultations taking place among the five permanent members of the Security Council, Mr. Belonogov added.

Later Friday, shipping sources said Iranian gunboats attacked a Liberian tanker in the southern Gulf just hours after ambushing the Igloo Espoo.

PLO renews conditional offer

(Continued from page 1)

member with equal status to other parties, including Israel.

"It is a convenient time for an international conference, without preconditions from any party," he added.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, asked Thursday about Mr. Arafat's comments, said, "I don't have a direct response."

But he also said: "Our position on the international peace conference is that there has to be direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbours, but we also feel that an international peace conference perhaps could be a helpful vehicle."

"We have pressed, as all nations have, for recognition of Israel," he added.

Asked if the PLO would halt its guerrilla war against Israel if a conference were convened and attended by all five permanent members of the Security Council, Mr. Arafat noted: "I said no preconditions."

According to Mr. Arafat, the Israelis have killed more than 60 Palestinians in five weeks of bloody clashes in the West Bank and Gaza, wounded 800 and

arrested some 7,000. "Our masses in the occupied territories are facing a savage and barbarian Israeli military force with small stones," he said.

Palestinian leaders are now giving serious consideration to declaring a government-in-exile that some believe would bolster demands for a Palestinian homeland.

Mr. Arafat stressed that the issue was still under study. But he conceded that establishing a government-in-exile would "enable us to overcome some obstacles" that stand in the way of achieving Palestinian self-determination.

One of the main obstacles, he stressed, "is the refusal of the American administration to deal with the PLO."

"If a government-in-exile would help in this regard, why not?" he asked.

Saying that Washington views the Palestinian issue "from a very narrow angle," he said: "The uprising will affect, sooner or later, not only the American attitude (but also) that of the Israeli masses... and the Jewish communities."

CONDOLENCES

The Far East Commercial Office in Amman sadly announces the passing away of

President Chiang Ching-Kuo

of the Republic of China-Taiwan on Wednesday, January 13th, 1988 in Taipei. There will be a register at this office on Saturday and Sunday, January 16th and 17th, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for those who wish to offer their condolences.

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Condemnation are not enough

IT is certain that all expressions of condemnation of Israel's actions would not be sufficient to deter the Israeli occupation authorities from pursuing their defiance of the Arab Nation. Deplored Israel's actions against the Palestinian Arabs can never stop Israel from committing further crimes and starving our people in the occupied homeland. The deportation of the Arab men to Lebanon and Israel's continued acts of terrorism against the Palestinians in their towns and villages stand out as the best proof that Israel will never be deterred by words of condemnation. Therefore, we call on Egypt to sever its diplomatic relations with Israel, something which Cairo had hinted it would do if Israel went on with its plans and practices against the Palestinians. Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv had said that the deportation could lead to a severing of relations between the two sides; and it is time now to cut these relations since Israel has actually carried out the deportation. The ambassador's statements should be heeded in Cairo specially as all the Arab masses cry out demanding the same thing: A cut of relations with Tel Aviv. An Egyptian move in this direction would no doubt deal a serious blow to Israel and would represent a strong form of backing to the Arab people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who are continuing their struggle for freedom. An Egyptian move against Israel would enhance the Arab stand world-wide and corroborate solidarity among Arab countries, and would also pave the way for a collective Arab action against Israel.

Al Dustour: King reaffirms conference importance

IN his interview with British television and during his meetings with two U.S. congressmen in Amman, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's firm stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war. The monarch stressed once again that Jordan seeks an international conference to find a solution for the Middle East problem and that Jordan and the rest of the Arab countries seek an end to the Gulf conflict as agreed on in the Amman extraordinary Arab summit meeting held in November. Jordan's stand is firm to the face of Israel's atrocities against our people in the occupied territories, which today have failed to stem the resistance or stifle the spirit of struggle for freedom. The King referred to the uprising which he said was a natural outcome and a reaction to Israel's repressive measures and its adamant stand with regard to the establishment of a just peace based on justice. Israel has made a mockery of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, it continues to defy the will of the international community and pursue its terrorist practices on the Arab people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Despite Israel's intransigent stand, the Arab people are continuing their struggle and are offering sacrifices for freedom. Israel which is faced with world-wide condemnation has no alternative but to accept the international community's will and embark on measures to achieve peace through an international conference. In his meetings the King said that the uprising against Israel was bound to continue as long as the Israeli occupation lasted and that the desperate people will pursue all efforts to regain their rights and freedom.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel blocking peace paths

FOR how long will Israel continue to exercise terrorism and inhuman practices against the Arab people and pursue its present policies before the eyes of the world? Israel, that Jewish state, is destroying chances for peace and working against any move towards stability and security in the Middle East region. It continues to reject U.N. Security Council resolutions and is going ahead with plans for deporting Arab citizens, demolishing Arab homes, detaining Arab youths and imposing curfews on Arab towns and villages. Blinded by its military successes in the past, Israel continues to defy the will of the Arab people of Palestine through the use of terrorism and arms. Confronted with the present uprising Israel is displaying all its hatred to the Arabs and showing its determination to quell the Arab resistance with all its might in defiance of the international community. The Palestinian people, having realised that there can be no salvation without revolt, have now risen altogether, seeking freedom; and their revolt ushers in a new phase in the long struggle they have adopted against the occupation authorities and their atrocities. Israel can never detain the whole population of Palestine and can never continue to exercise its present policies for ever.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Uprising enters new phase

IT is now clear that the uprising which broke out six weeks ago in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is now entering a new phase, marked with extreme violence. The fast developments and the continued defiance displayed by the oppressed Arabs towards the Israeli occupation authorities is rapidly turning into an all-out revolt, gradually expanding and increasing in intensity and spreading to all parts of the occupied Arab land. In return, it is clear also that Israel's repressive measures against the Arabs and their acts of resistance are also intensifying and escalating unprecedented over the past 20 years of occupation. It is thus reasonable to believe that more bloody confrontations between the two sides are about to occur and more blood will be shed. It should be noted, however, that measures taken by the Arab countries and the international community are slow and do not conform to the speed of the developments and serious events in the occupied Arab territory. The world is watching Israel imposing its terrorism on the Arabs, starving the Palestinian people in their camps and imposing curfews on towns and villages without discrimination. They are also demolishing Arab homes and continuing to confiscate Arab-owned property in defiance of world nations and organisations. We are dismayed to see the Arab League delaying urgent meetings to discuss the situation, and not happy about the world community's reaction to the Israeli actions. We demand a Security Council meeting to be held immediately to force Israel to stop its atrocities and crimes committed against our people.

Al Dustour: Evicting Palestinians

ISRAEL has carried out its threat and deported four Arab people from their Palestinian land to South Lebanon. It has thus shown its total disregard to the international community and U.N. Security Council's resolutions that called on Israeli leaders to refrain from committing such actions. The Israel move is also aimed at terrorising out Arab people and stemming their resistance activity against repressive measures. The deportation was an act of defiance to the United States among other nations which voted at the Security Council for a resolution urging Israel to desist from committing further atrocities that violate the Geneva conventions with regard to the treatment of civilians in occupied territories. Since Israel's action is a direct defiance of the Security Council resolution, then it is up to the council's permanent members to take a drastic action against Israel and against Israel's mutiny against, and its disregard of the will of the international community. The deportation to Lebanon territory against the will of the Lebanese people is a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, requiring proper action on the part of the world organisation. The Jordanian government has voiced its total condemnation of Israel's actions because it feels it is a national responsibility to try to help the Arab people of Palestine to remain in their homeland and resist all actions by the Israeli authorities. We join all voices which are raised in deploring this Israeli action, and appeal to all world nations and peace loving people of the world to take action that can deter Israeli leaders from committing other crimes.

Mubarak signal to Arabs: Peace with Israel is irrevocable

By Maurice Guindi
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — President Hosni Mubarak sent the Arab World a clear signal during a six-nation Gulf tour that ended Thursday: Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel is here to stay.

But the president tempered this with repeated assurances that the treaty does not prevent Egypt from helping fellow Arabs militarily in the face of a possible threat from Iran.

Mubarak was received with great warmth throughout the tour, which took him to fellow moderate countries Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. All but Oman had severed diplomatic ties with Cairo after conclusion of the separate treaty with Israel and restored them only last November.

Mubarak undertook the tour to express gratitude, spotlight

Egypt's return to the Arabs' good graces and underline a commitment to help fellow Arabs without prejudice to his peace treaty obligations.

The public praise heaped on Mubarak by officials and government-guided newspapers in the countries he visited illustrate that the tour paid off in greatly improved relations and increased personal stature for the president.

The prestigious Saudi newspaper Al Riyadh wrote that Egypt's comeback "is like the return of the soul to the whole Arab Nation."

It was strategic stupidity to immobilise Egypt's role," the newspaper said. "The only natural alternative was for the Arabs to regain their throbbing heart (Egypt) so the Arab body can recover its strength."

This portrayal was significant coming from a country that was a prime mover in Egypt's ostracism in the first place.

In every capital visited, Mubarak broke from his normal practice at home and made a point of briefing reporters. Almost always, he deftly, albeit indirectly, upheld the peace treaty even while criticising Israel on various counts.

Nowhere was there the slightest ring of apology or hint of embarrassment about Egypt's status of being at peace with the Jewish state. Neither was there any indication that any of his once-resentful hosts had questioned Egypt's adherence to the treaty.

At a news conference in Kuwait, Mubarak recalled the 1978 U.S.-mediated Camp David framework accords between Egypt and Israel. He noted that one of the accords laid down foundations for the treaty to be negotiated, the other guidelines for solving the problem of the Palestinians.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the

Palestine Liberation Organisation, twice cabled Mubarak during his tour appealing for him to intercede with Israel to stop its crackdown on Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The only Arab leader with an embassy in Tel Aviv, Mubarak is in a unique position to do so.

Mubarak repeatedly was asked during the tour whether he planned diplomatic reprisals such as severing relations or recalling Egypt's ambassador or expelling Israel's.

His reply invariably was a firm but diplomatically couched no. In the Saudi capital Riyadh, he said: "If breaking relations will solve the problem, well and good. But if it will complicate the problem, then we should use the mind God has given us... it would not be practical."

"Israel would like me to sever relations with it today so it can have the United States all to

itself. Frankly, we will not leave the field to Israel."

Nevertheless, Mubarak criticised Israel for harshness against protesters in the occupied territories, where at least 34 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops since Dec. 8.

He took Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to task for reneging on an agreement by his predecessor Shimon Peres, now Israel's foreign minister, to an international conference as a forum for negotiating peace with the Arabs.

Despite such criticism, however, Mubarak stuck to Egypt's peace-with-Israel policy. "There is no tension in relations (with Israel)," he told reporters in Bahrain's capital Manama.

He also said Egypt will feel free to buy anything Israel is selling if prices are competitive.

On the other hand, Mubarak repeatedly assured his Arab hosts that the Israel treaty does not hinder Egypt's discharge of its

commitments under the 1959 Arab Joint Defence Pact. That accord stipulates collective defence measures against aggression.

"There is absolutely no conflict between the joint defence agreement and the treaty with Israel," he said.

He noted that the peace treaty invokes the supremacy of the U.N. charter, which includes an article providing for collective self-defence.

Mubarak cited the 1959 defence document and Egypt's willingness with the Arabs at justification for his repeated offers of military help to the Gulf Arabs. He refused to be specific, but Cairo officials made clear long assistance, at least in the near future, would consist of arms and military experts only.

Mubarak said he already is honouring the pledges through military supplies to Iraq that Egyptian officials value at about \$1.5 billion since 1981.

Gulf war boosts Egypt's arms industry

Egypt has started to step up its sales of weapons. Tony Walker reports on Cairo's military production priorities and its links with foreign companies.

CAIRO — "Everybody is trying to sell new equipment," said General Gamal Al Sayed, Minister of State for Military Production. "We're trying to sell modified existing equipment, especially in the Third World."

The Gulf War and Egypt's own more pressing defence needs as an Arab counterweight to an expansionist Iran have given a boost to its military industries and opened up new export possibilities.

A defence equipment exhibition held in Cairo in November was timely because it enabled Egypt to display its wares at a moment when states in the region are increasingly worried about the Iranian threat. Fourteen Arab states sent delegations, some headed by defence ministers.

Interviews with the officials in charge of military production, heads of government arms factories, defence attaches and representatives of foreign companies seeking to supply Egypt with equipment indicate that its main priorities are to:

— Improve and upgrade its electronic air and ground defence

systems. — Expand its fledgling electronic industries to enable the manufacture of more sophisticated items and increase possibilities for export.

— Produce a bigger range of spares for its U.S.-supplied equipment. — Assemble a frontline battle tank, including the manufacture of some components.

— Acquire the technology to re-equip Soviet T-54, T-55 and T-62 tanks, aircraft and missiles. — Build an intermediate range battlefield missile.

Egypt is increasingly pressing foreign companies to assist it in manufacturing items suitable for its own military and for re-export. Some companies, such as Plessey Electronics of the U.K., have indicated their willingness to assist in Egypt's defence sales drive.

Egypt has also secured an important commitment from the U.S. to help finance defence production. An initial \$40 million was allocated in the fiscal 1988 military assistance programme for this purpose. Egyptian and U.S. representatives met in Octo-

ber to discuss ways in which the money might be spent.

Mr. Richard Armitage, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs, on a visit to Egypt in April for a meeting of the U.S.-Egyptian military cooperation committee, signalled U.S. willingness to provide more direct financial assistance for local defence industries.

Egypt has initiated a study of areas of possible cooperation with U.S. defence industry. It has commissioned BDM, a Virginia-based consultancy, to advise on items that could be manufactured locally under licensing or offset arrangements.

Gen. Al Sayed said the U.S. company had been asked by Egypt's Ministry of Defence to "localise components that can be manufactured in Egypt, to get specifications and engine drawings." The minister said spare parts for existing U.S.-supplied equipment were costing billions. Egypt was anxious to reduce these costs by manufacturing locally where possible.

A study of U.S. military aid for fiscal 1987 explains Egypt's concern about the high cost of maintaining its sophisticated U.S.-supplied equipment, such as F-16 fighter-bombers. Of the \$1.5 bil-

lion disbursed in the year to September 30, about \$1 billion went in "follow on" support.

This included training, maintenance and spares. Egypt's most ambitious new project is the construction and equipping of Factory 200 on the outskirts of Cairo to start assembling by the early 1990s the General Dynamics Land System's M1A1 Abrams battle tank.

Egypt is making a big investment in the new factory which will also be used to service its existing armoured divisions of U.S.-supplied M-60 tanks.

The U.S. has tentatively allocated \$164 million in fiscal 1989 to assist in equipping Factory 200 and providing technical training. Assembly of the M1A1 Abrams tank would be a large undertaking for Egypt's defence industries.

One of Egypt's big preoccupations is prolonging the life of existing Soviet-supplied equipment and, where possible, improving it. About half its military equipment was provided by the Soviets before relations cooled in the early 1970s.

Egypt sees a good market among Arab and African states for refurbished Soviet equipment or for the engineering skills to carry out the task. Gen. Al Sayed said that in surrounding countries there were thousands of Soviet T-54 and T-55 tanks suitable for modernisation.

One of the aims of the recent defence exhibition, he said, was to show that Egypt was acquiring the ability in joint ventures and licensing deals to rebuild older-style Soviet tanks, which he said had a "beautifully strong silhouette. The minister indicated that Teledyne of the U.S. would be awarded the contract on the basis of a "strong and powerful modification" of a T-54, to refurbish an as yet unspecified number of the Soviet-supplied tanks. Refurbishment includes installation of new motors, fire

Major third world weapon exporting countries 1981-85

Country	Value of total exports of major weapons (\$m)	Export value to exports (\$m)	Domestically produced share of total exports (%)
Israel	680	617	91
Brazil	306	501	99
Egypt	375	17	5
South Korea	143	138	97
Singapore	79	33	42
South Africa	36	36	100
Indonesia	28	28	100
Argentina	17	17	100
Others	570	6	1
Total	2,434	1,393	57

control systems and an improved gun.

Gen. Al Sayed said another important aim of the recent defence exhibition was to inform prospective Third World clients that Egypt was anxious to work with them and match their requirements. One of Egypt's difficulties in selling defence equipment, however, is lack of marketing skills and difficulties in providing finance.

Egyptian officials admit this is a shortcoming in the highly competitive arms trade. They say that a programme to finance arms sales is being studied. Egypt's defence industry has also been seeking assistance in marketing its products.

Further development of Egypt's electronic sector is seen as offering one of the best means of expanding defence sales, which are presently restricted to small arms and ammunition. Senior Egyptian officials are redoubt about the value of arms exports, mostly to Iraq, but these sales are reckoned to total between \$300 million and \$500 million annually.

The Stockholm Peace and Research Institute, in its annual yearbook, warns of one of the problems facing all Third World arms producers — and Egypt is no exception. "Production of major weapons is running into a structural dilemma in most Third World countries," Sipri said.

"There is, except in India, too little domestic demand for what can be efficiently produced and, except in Israel, the high-technology weapons in demand by the domestic armed forces cannot be produced."

Sipri figures show that between 1981 and 1985 Israel, Brazil and Egypt led the table of Third World weapon exporting countries. But Egypt's exports were dominated by the Soviet-supplied equipment such as armoured vehicles and field pieces re-exported to Iraq. Egypt's domestically produced share of total weapon exports was only 5 per cent compared with 91 per cent in Israel's case and 99 per cent for Brazil.

Gen. Al Sayed, who is responsible for more than one dozen industries employing about 50,000 workers, is proud of achievements. Production, he says, has increased by 250 per cent in eight years while the labour force has swelled by only 12 per cent.

He recognises, however, that Egypt needs to sell equipment in a highly competitive international market to generate funds for investment. "We need to sell to third countries," he said, "because the requirement for new investment in defence industries is very high... If you don't develop you don't sell even to your own army." — Financial Times feature.

Seeing through the 'Greater-Israel' bluff

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

TWO events that took place in 1987 have made it likely that Labour will win the elections in November, always provided that internal squabbles — most recently with Labour's Secretary-General Uri Baran — do not rock the party boat.

The first positive factor is Shimon Peres' decision to go out on a limb in support of the peace-making process, to the point of urging Israel's participation (despite a measure of risk) in an international conference.

The second event that may change the course of Israel's politics is the recent Arab riots.

A British statesman in the 17th century was labelled "the Trimmer" for blurring the difference between Whig and Tory. Until recently, Peres could have rated that title on account of his coalition tactics, which blurred the difference between Labour and Likud. Unforgivably, he authorised (by failing to oppose) the creation of Jewish settlements all over the West Bank and Gaza.

On this one topic, however — pursuit of the peace process — he took a stand and would not yield, even if it meant breaking coalition discipline. He has recently underlined his rejection of the Greater-Israel policy further by giving a warning, which turned out to be very timely, that we have to get out of Gaza. In taking issue with Prime Minister Shamir over these, the most critical issues the country faces, Peres has saved his reputation.

Not that he won popular plaudits, initially at least, for his insistence on negotiation at all costs. The crucial middle segment of the electorate, those who are committed neither to the left nor the right, were not impressed. The Likud knew how to appease their apprehensions. What is the hurry, it said. Muslims are killing each other in the Gulf war, which weakens the external threat. Internally, the Arabs do as they are told, accepting Israeli rule without complaint. Why change the status quo?

This complacency was dealt a death-blow by the December riots. Several troublesome thoughts, thrust to the back of our minds, were brought to the fore. The Gulf war will not last forever. Will peacemaking be easier or harder when Iraq and Iran are free to glower at us

instead of glowering at each other?

The Arab inhabitants of the territories are not supine; it was a mistake to think that they were. How can their now-revealed hostility be allayed? Not by perpetuating the status quo. The current military occupation means that Israel has power without responsibility. We have power because we rule over this population, but we are not responsible for their economic welfare because we have not annexed them. Clearly this interim situation, which has lasted for 20 years, cannot go on forever.

The alternatives are two: Make Israel united by annexing the territories or, as Peres recommends, partition the country afresh and remove the foreign element from our rule. Annexation would mean that the standard of life of the Arabs becomes our direct responsibility.

The Likud want to avoid that by instituting autonomy. If autonomy means that while Israel remains sovereign the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza remains, as British Minister of State David Mellor described, "an affront to civilised values," then nothing will have changed and the status quo will continue as before.

People are beginning to realise that the Greater-Israel formula is a bluff. The obstacle to annexation is not that the world will rise against it or that the Arabs will not agree to it; though these two considerations are important enough. The basic problem is that we cannot afford it. We do not have the means to convert all the Jabalya camps into civilised neighbourhoods. We cannot cope with the task of transforming the two million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza into two million Israelis.

If we could, the problem would still arise: Will the 2 million now-rehabilitated inhabitants (growing before long to 3 million) accept Israeli rule? They might if they were also given equal representation in Israel's Knesset and government. But no one intends that that should happen. The prospect of peace and harmony would therefore be one more illusion.

In fact, the Arab population will remain economically backward under Shamir's suggested autonomy system. They will have to rely on their own limited resources unaided (except marginally) by their rulers, while the Israeli flag waves exasperatingly

over their territory.

If that is the option the Likud has in mind, then we shall be dependent for the preservation of law and order on Arik Sharon's measures of massive and brutal repression for as long into the future as we can see.

All the above is becoming clear, so the placid reassurances given to date by the Likud are being overtaken at last by more convincing arguments from the Labour side. "Who needs all this?" asks Peres. What benefit is there in being saddled with a huge subject population who hate our guts, knife our soldiers, throw rocks at our vehicles and force our troops to shoot at them, thus acquiring a halo of martyrdom which arouses sympathy all over the Middle East and all over the world?

What advantage is there in retaining the territories? The West Bank and Gaza will not become Jewish even if we double and treble the number of settlers there. The Jews are the dominant population inside the Green Line, and will remain so. The Arabs dominate beyond the Green Line, and that won't change either. Each side must accept the adamant fact of the other's existence.

It is not certain that the negotiations that Peres calls for will succeed, but there is a chance. If they do, the benefits will be tremendous. Getting out of the Arab-populated zones will not increase the danger to our security any more than getting out of Lebanon did. Our power of reprisal will keep the territories reasonably quiescent, given that the Arabs will no longer have reason to pester us. The relief of having our own country to ourselves again will turn the territorial loss into a blessing.

Voters will be thinking about that at election time. Their favourable response to Defence Minister Rabin's iron-fisted policy should not mislead: Everybody wants an end to the rioting. But many are thinking ahead. The conflict between ruler and ruled cannot be settled perpetually by rifle-buts.

What alternative does the Likud have to offer? The status quo; the dead-end that we have reached under Shamir's administration. A substantial proportion of the element at the centre — whose choice at the polls is crucial — may now decide that it is now Labour's Peres who is talking sense.

Enjoy The Taste Goodness

VIN DE CHATEAU

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Iraq at war — revival of Arab nationalism

By Nermeen Murad

THOSE arriving in Baghdad with their hearts full of sympathy for the sufferings of the Iraqi people are in for a surprise. They soon realise that if anything, Iraq's war with Iran, now in its eighth year, has revived a sense of Arabism that is fuelled with every Iranian assault on the warfront. But that's not the only reason for the resurgence of Arab nationalism in Iraq and elsewhere in the Arab World.

Recent developments in the Gulf war, such as Iran's incitement of violent riots in the Holy City of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, its missile attacks on non-belligerent Kuwait and its threats to commercial navigation in the Gulf waters, have all served as a reminder to other Arab states that Iraq is not Iran's only target. This is exactly what prompted Arab states to unanimously support a strong resolution against Iran at the Amman Arab summit conference.

Visitors to Iraq immediately get a sense of pride in Iraq's role in defending the Arab Nation, a sense enhanced by the support demonstrated by Arab leaders at the summit conference. The steadfastness of the Iraqi

armed forces on the war front which deny the Iranians any leeway in the war, and Arab realisation that the regime in Tehran is indeed a common threat to the Arab Nation have strengthened the people's fighting spirit and boosted their morale — a fact that can be felt and sensed throughout the Iraqi society.

As one Egyptian put it: "I came here carrying with me a poem which could draw tears from alligators in the way it describes miseries, but after arriving in Baghdad I felt that my poem is an insult to all what this war stands for." He went on: "These people (the Iraqis) don't need my miserable poems, they need me to join them in their proud struggle if only in words, so, I changed my poem."

A Palestinian writer said: "I thought that I would tell Iraqis about how one feels when one turns homeless, I thought we (Palestinians) had all the experience, but the Iraqis not only taught me that I was wrong about their situation, they even showed me that I am also part of their struggle, that my being a Palestinian is an honour which they are fighting to keep for me." In

Baghdad, he said, "I have an identity."

What do the Iraqis offer their visitors in a short period of time to create such a drastic change towards the war in particular and the Arab identity in general, is very complicated to describe. But put in a simple way, it seems that the sense of dignity is contagious.

During a festival held for the Balat Al Shuhada School victims, attended by the families and school friends of the martyrs, there was a striking theme to the whole festival: The lack of the expected public display of sorrow and the defiant element of pride which was expressed on the faces of the families and friends. One mother had dressed her young daughter in a wedding dress indicating their pride over the death of their child martyr.

Walking the streets of Baghdad at dusk, wedding parties are common scenes, much more so than the sight of women draped in black or men dressed in army uniforms. Indirectly one forgets the war and its miseries and only feels the Iraqis' sense of survival take over their daily lives. Weddings remain a normal element of

life which could not be erased by the horrors of war.

An Iraqi taxi driver commented: "We have to keep getting married, keep having children and continue the cycle of life." He added that this particular war added to the Iraqi pride in their offspring so "we will not stop creating more proud men and women."

A special element of pride was felt by Jordanians visiting Iraq, whether walking in souks or riding in taxis, identification as a Jordanian always brought out a flood of emotions from the Iraqis who placed King Hussein and the people of Jordan on a pedestal.

"All Arab countries are helping us, but King Hussein, he is different. The Jordanians gave us their blood," said a shop owner adding that while aid came from all over the Arab World none was more precious than Jordanian soldiers who joined Iraqis in their war against Iran.

One leaves Iraq with a serene feeling of content: Hardships, no matter how cruel, do not necessarily smother peoples' attitudes, they rather evoke feelings of greatness and purpose.



The legendary long, golden hair of mermaids was used to sell hair tonic on this 19th-century Ayer's advertising card. The mermaids pictured here appear delighted to have salvaged the tonic for their ritual of washing, combing and admiring their lovely locks. The

mermaid motif in advertising, which is used today in television commercials, is illustrative of the pervasiveness and popularity of the elusive enchantress in everyday life.

Enchanting seductresses, mermaids drift between reality and illusion

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — At sea for two months in arctic waters, explorer Henry Hudson entered in his log June 13, 1608:

"This morning one of our company looking overboard saw a Mermaid... from the Navill upward, her back and breasts were like a woman's... they saw her tail, which was like the tail of a porpoise and speckled like a Macrell."

The fantasy of a sailor too long at sea? "The description is so specific that it is almost convincing," says Lee Ellen Griffith, guest curator of the Philadelphia Maritime Museum's exhibit of mermaid art.

Throughout history, there have been reports of mermaid sightings in all parts of the world, even into the second half of the 20th century.

One of the earliest recorded was Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder in the first century A.D.: "And as for the Mermaids called Nereides, it is no fabulous tale that goeth of them: for looke how painters draw them, so they are

indeed: onlie their bodie is rough and skated all over, even in those parts wherein they resemble woman."

In this old English translation of Pliny's "Historia Naturalis," he recounts several mermaid sightings, including a mass monster tide that struck an island, washing ashore more than 300 ereatures, among them sea elephants, aquatic rams, and mermaids.

The mermaid's earliest recorded ancestor is a half-man, half-fish sea god, Oannes, worshipped by the Babylonians centuries before the birth of Christ. Babylonians believed the sea was the origin of all life. Oannes was a civilising force over mankind.

The first female mermaid prototype was the Semitic moon goddess Atargatis, worshipped by the Philistines, Syrians, and Israelites. She is better known today in her Greek and Roman mythological forms — Aphrodite and Venus, goddess of love and beauty.

From ancient Greek mythology emerges the dual nature of the mermaid that endures today. She is both the fatal seductress, the

siren who lures sailors and ships to their doom, and the benevolent protectress, the Nereid.

Through the ages, folklore has filled the seas with "merfolk," both male and female. The richest sources of mermaid lore are countries that border the sea, especially England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Most mermaids are pictured as lovely sea nymphs with long, golden hair, who carry magic talismans, usually a comb and a mirror. But some are sea witches, with stringy seaweed hair, green teeth, and claws.

During the age of exploration, there was a surge of mermaid sightings by explorers of the New World. Both Christopher Columbus and Capt. John Smith reported seeing mermaids swimming in the waters of the West Indies.

Smith critiqued the one he observed: "She 'had large eyes, rather too round, a finely shaped nose; a little too short, well-formed ears, rather too long, and her long green hair imparted to her an original character by no means unattractive."

An extremely exotic creature from the Far East was sighted off the Moluccas in Indonesia, according to the "Natural History of the Indies," published in 1717. She was "59 inches long, and proportioned like an eel, lived on land in a tub full of water for four days, and seven hours... uttered little cries... would eat nothing" — and then died.

By 1723, a Danish royal commission had been set up to settle the mermaid phenomenon in Denmark once and for all. But on a fact-finding trip through the Faeroes Islands, members encountered a "merman." Their doubts dispelled, they reported that the merman had deep-set eyes and a long, black beard that looked as if it had been trimmed.

In the early 19th century, a number of mermaid sightings were reported throughout the British Isles. The Times of London in 1809 published an account by Scottish schoolmaster William

Munro, who wrote that he saw a mermaid on a rock, combing her long, light-brown hair. Her face was plump, her cheeks were ruddy, and her eyes were blue. She remained on the rock for three or four minutes and then dropped into the sea.

Off Ireland's Kilconly Point, between Ballyunion and Ballylongford, two brothers returning from a fishing trip in 1962 told newspaper reporters that they had seen a mermaid sitting on a rock. As they approached, she sank into the sea and disappeared into nearby caves.

As recently as 1983, anthropologist Roy Wagner of the University of Virginia told a Richmond newspaper that he had twice seen a creature something like a human off a Papua New Guinea island in the South Pacific. The local people claim that these creatures' forearms are rigid to the body and that they have use only of their hands. Their legs are fused and they have feel-like flippers, the New Guineans say.

Wagner now says that what he saw was not even half human. "Sophisticated underwater video equipment proved that the sightings were dugongs," he explains. "But they had characteristics not normally associated with" the torpedo-shaped mammals, he says. Most "mermaids" seen by mariners were probably seals, porpoises, manatees, or dugongs.

But Wagner insists that his mistake does not necessarily close the issue on the elusive mermaid. "People are still fascinated by mermaids because they're almost believable," says psychotherapist Linda Carter-Ake, who is doing research on mermaids as part of an analyst-training programme at the C.G. Jung Institute in Boston.

"The mermaid is psychologically real," she says. "The ocean represents the realm of the unconscious and the image of the mermaid, the diving down to deeper levels of consciousness of the self. The trick is not to let the mermaid pull you under."

THE PAST weeks' toll of dead and injured in the Israeli occupied territories have compounded the already acute problems of health services in the area after 20 years of Israeli occupation. Many Palestinians in camps are chronically sick because of underfunding of Arab hospitals and the neglect of underlying social problems.

Diseases associated with poverty, overcrowding, poor sanitation and contaminated water are endemic; major killers of children are diarrhoea and respiratory disease. Adult problems are associated with industry: heart disease, hypertension and diabetes.

Reliable figures are hard to come by. The infant mortality rate is a matter for debate: apparently low rates are quoted for the West Bank in 1985 (29 deaths per 1,000 live births) by the Israeli Ministry of Health, while the Central Bureau of Statistics puts the figure at 70 deaths per 1,000. These figures compare with a rate of 11.6 per cent 1,000 for Israeli Jews.

More than half the people, especially those in refugee camps and villages, are not covered by medical services. The appalling deficiencies became clear to a group of Palestinian doctors and nurses in 1979 after Israeli military authorities declared a curfew on a camp in Bethlehem.

Regular patients were prevented from attending the hospital and people died through lack of medical care. A dozen doctors and nurses finally decided deliberately to break the curfew.

They were not prepared for what greeted them. Coming from privileged backgrounds, the sight of sewers running through the streets and families of 14 living in two-room concrete shelters was a shock. It became clear why patients kept returning to hospital with the same problems.

The group returned with colleagues to try to help alleviate the ailments they saw, but clearly more than ad hoc missions were required. A group from the hospital in Jerusalem formed the

Bethlehem Medical Relief Committee to visit the camp on a regular basis.

Thirty-one-year-old Jumana Odeh, a Palestinian doctor from Jerusalem, says the early days were not smooth. One of 700 health workers who give up their spare time to work for a radical venture in Palestinian health care — the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees (UPMRC), she sacrificed a promising future as a neonatologist and has just completed a course in community health in London.

She says: "Some of our colleagues, mainly the older, more traditional ones, felt we were somehow cheapening medicine and harming the reputation of the profession. It's not surprising really, given the high status doctors have in our society."

At first, the mobile clinics evoked suspicion. "We showed them through our actions that we had come because it was our duty, not for thanks or out of charity. When their doubts were dissolved they accepted us."

"We felt the same, that all of us were under occupation, under the same oppression, really we hadn't a choice, we had to go."

"From the outset, we had decided against a charity approach as we didn't want to foster a dependence mentality, which is so degrading. We charged everyone a 50 piastre (25 pence) flat rate and even the poorest woman in the village insisted on finding the fee."

Since they started nine years ago, the group has steadily increased its preventative programmes. Last year, 47,000 patients were treated in 265 mobile clinics; over a dozen permanent health centres have been established. Health talks are given to women, workers and youth; illustrated leaflets on diarrhoea and meningitis are distributed to thousands of mothers; certain groups have regular check-ups — stone masons, for example, have chest and eye examinations for dust damage.

The Leningrad-trained Odeh says: "None of us had a background in primary health care



Jumana Odeh: 'We want to continue our work in peace' Photo by Ronny Willens

then... we just had to pick it up from books and through dealing with problems as they arose. I would say that over 70 per cent of our success is due to the people, not to the doctors or the nurses or the pharmacists or anyone else. We couldn't have come this far without them."

Nineteen elected women from villages have so far been trained in a formal programme run in Jerusalem. The arrival of the committees has opened up new avenues for local women: "When we set up there was a rush of girls who came to help us, sweeping up or anything — they were so tired and would do anything rather than work as cheap labour in Israel or the [Zionist] settlements."

Two key requirements for any successful primary health care programme are community participation and high level political commitment.

Community participation has been helped by the growth of women's committees and the re-birth under new leadership of Arab unions.

Specialised treatments for common diseases are often simply not available.

Last year, in Gaza's Jabaliya camp, soldiers closed a clinic and arrested four doctors under a 1934 Ottoman statute banning voluntary work. After international protests, the Gaza clinics reopened, although their position is still vulnerable.

Much work remains to be done in Gaza and the Jordan Valley, the two most deprived areas.

Deb Pil works for Zatar, Middle East Community Development. Further information concerning the Medical Relief Committees or the Women's Committees can be obtained from Zatar, 20 Compton Terrace, London N1 2UN.

Fiftieth anniversary on tap for nylon, synthetics revolution

By Bruce Russell
Reuters

WILMINGTON, Delaware — When chemist Julian Hill plunged a glass rod into a test tube in the early 1930s and drew out a thin filament of man-made fibre, he launched the biggest textile revolution of the 20th century.

His successful experiment in drawing a synthetic strand from a hot and sticky polyester compound led several years later to the production of nylon and later of other dacron and other artificial fibres.

Du Pont Company, the chemical giant that primed the revolution by luring a team of chemists including Hill away from universities to research whatever took their fancy, is marking the 50th anniversary of the production of nylon at one of its factories near Wilmington.

The breakthrough was announced, and the nylon era began, on October 27, 1938.

Nylon, the first synthetic fibre to be marketed, became synonymous with stockings, although it was quickly diverted for use in world war two parachutes and aircraft tyre cords.

The new "wonder fibre" was cheap, elastic, versatile, very strong — and, in the case of women's hosiery, provided a low-

cost substitute for silk. During the war, a single pair of nylons once fetched \$40,000 — but Du Pont officials recall they were a rather special pair, worn by GI pin-up queen Betty Grable, who auctioned them in a war bond rally.

A few years later, a little nylon "war" all its own erupted when women formed lines around department stores from New York to San Francisco, smashed in showcase windows and fought each other for the first pairs of post-war nylons.

Inventor Hill recalls the early nylonmania episodes as "nylon riots" and says, "Women behaved very badly. They were fighting in the aisles."

"Nylon was a product that had the decks stacked in its favour from the start," said Hill, age 83, who retired in 1964 and is the only survivor of the original Du Pont research team led by Harvard chemist Wallace Carothers.

"In the 30s the Japanese invaded China and Japan and everything Japanese was very much in the dog house and there was a spontaneous informal boycott of Japanese silk," Hill said in an interview with Reuters.

That created a tremendous market for nylon in stockings. Then the war came and nylon

went into the war effort." Hill says that although everyone on the Carothers team had a free hand to pursue his own research, it was Carothers' fascination with polymers, artificial substances created by stringing molecules together, that set the agenda.

The team worked on creating molecule chains in search of a compound capable of producing a fibre, and one with a high enough melting point for commercial use, he said.

Polyester, the polymer Hill used in his early experiment, was tested without success.

Du Pont spokesman Jim Barhydt says those years marked a succession of breakthroughs in producing artificial substances including a synthetic rubber called neoprene and a substance known as teflon — which gained prominence much later as a source of non-stick surfaces for cooking utensils.

Company officials say that by 1934 Du Pont realised it was onto something big with polymers and raised a wall of secrecy around the research.

Carothers, whose team produced 80 different synthetic fibres from which nylon was eventually selected, died without ever hearing the word "nylon."

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Barcelona beats Milan to end black week for Italy

LONDON (R) — Barcelona of Spain completed a black week for Italian basketball clubs when they beat defending champions Tracer Milan 100-94 and knocked them off the top of the quarterfinals table in the Men's Champion Clubs' Cup.

In addition to Milan's demise, not one Italian club succeeded in reaching the semifinals of the men's Korac Cup which Italy has dominated in recent years.

After the sixth round of matches in the Champion Clubs' Cup, Partizan Belgrade took over as leaders following a 101-95 victory over Cologne in West Germany.

It was the Yugoslavs' fifth win in their six matches played so far in the eight-club group. After 14 rounds, the top four qualify for the knockout semifinals.

Milan slipped back to second and next week face the most difficult trip when they visit

Greece to play third-placed Aris Salonika.

In Milan on Thursday, Dino Meneghin, Roberto Premier and Ricardo Aldi all fouled out as 37 points from top scorer Bob Mead failed to save them against Barcelona for whom San Epifanio led the scorers with 28 points.

Aris defeated Den Bosch of the Netherlands 120-99 with Europe's Player of the Year Nikos Galis leading the way with 49 points.

The Korac Cup has been a disaster for Italy, which has failed to qualify a single team for the

semifinals for the first time in many years.

In next month's semifinals, Real Madrid will play either Red Star Belgrade or Villeurbanne of France. In the other match, Cibona Zagreb of Yugoslavia will meet their compatriots Jugoplastika.

In next week's final group matches, Red Star will qualify if they beat Estudiantes Madrid in Spain or if Villeurbanne lose in Greece against Paok Salonika.

If Red Star lose, Villeurbanne can qualify by beating Paok. The winner of next week's match between Hapoel and Jugoplastika will face Cibona.

Desperate Watford goes back to basics

LONDON (R) — Struggling Watford, desperate for a win to baulk themselves off the bottom of the English soccer First Division, plan to return to basics and introduce a strict code of discipline at Wimbledon on Saturday.

While leaders Liverpool seek to extend their daunting lead at the top with a victory over third-placed Arsenal, much attention will focus on the bottom and crisis-hit Watford's attempt to recover from a disastrous first half-season.

New manager Steve Harrison, who returned to the club this week when Dave Bassett resigned, believes disciplined behaviour on and off the field will be the key to Watford's bid to avoid relegation.

"I want to see disciplined performances not only in how we play, but in the way we conduct ourselves towards referees and linesmen," he said. "The record has not been good."

Harrison left Watford with former manager Graham Taylor when he moved to Aston Villa last year. He faces a daunting task in rebuilding morale shattered by uncertainty over the club's future, with rock star chairman Elton John still hoping to sell his majority holding.

Harrison said: "I've told the players we cannot look back at the last seven months. It is a fresh chapter now... we must go about things in an orderly and professional manner."

Harrison could not have wished for a more difficult start. Wimbledon are Bassett's former team and play in the unsophisticated "direct" style which has upset many opposition teams this season.

Watford could be without Welsh international midfielder Kenny Jackett, who has a strained ankle. A win could lift Watford off the bottom as second-from-bottom Charlton face an equally formidable task at second-placed Nottingham Forest.

Two of the other clubs threatened by the drop, Portsmouth and Oxford, meet on the south coast, with Portsmouth recalling deposed captain Kenny Swain and former England striker Paul Mariner because of an injury crisis.

Liverpool have no such problems. Manager Kenny Dalglish's only problem will be to decide if goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar has recovered from injury sufficiently to return as they bid to enlarge their 13-point lead at the top.



His Majesty the King receives Al Dajeh

King meets 3rd would-be Jordanian world-walker

AMMAN (J.T.) — A third Jordanian adventurer is set to go round-the-world on foot and he was received Thursday by His Majesty King Hussein who greeted him and wished him success in his mission.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the King as expressing hope that Mr. Nayef Al Dajeh would convey a bright image about his country to the outside world.

Earlier this month, another Jordanian Khamis Abul Dahab embarked on a tour of the world on foot through which he said he

hoped to carry a message of love and peace from Jordan.

Khamis's tour will be divided into four stages with the first being around Amman. The second leg will take him to other Jordanian cities and the third stage will take him to the Arab World. On his final stage, Khamis will tour the outside world.

On Dec. 15, Walid Amayreh, another Jordanian traveller was reported to have crossed into Saudi Arabia on his second leg of his six-year tour around the world.

Jordanian rider secures 6th position in Dubai

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Steve Jahshan rode to snatch the sixth position among 35 entrants in the first day of Dubai International Equestrian Championship which began in Dubai Thursday. Mounting his filly, Dancer, Jahshan jumped over the 12 hur-

dles of the first stage and managed to clear four out of the five hurdles in the final playoffs. Hanu Besharat and Jahshan form the Jordanian team to the championships which was dominated by the Dubai riders.

Vietnam, Czechoslovakia enter Seoul Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Agencies) — Czechoslovakia on Friday became the last East Bloc country to notify the International Olympic Committee it will take part in this year's Summer Games at Seoul. The latest announcements came two days before the IOC's deadline for 167 national Olympic committees to respond to invitations for Seoul.

Vietnam informed South Korea Friday that it will compete in this year's Summer Olympics, the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC) said.

The Vietnamese promise to participate in the Seoul Olympics came by telephone Friday, SLOOC officials said. Vietnam maintains diplomatic relations with North Korea but not with South Korea.

Communist Vietnam has regarded South Korea as a hostile country because South Korean troops fought on the side of anti-Communist South Vietnam in the Vietnam war until the fall of the Saigon government in 1975.

Hungary and East Germany last month were the first East Bloc countries to confirm they will send athletes to the South

Korean capital; the Soviet Union made its announcement Monday.

Soviet Bloc participation was in doubt after North Korea threatened to call for a Communist boycott of the games if it were not allowed to share in staging them.

IOC-sponsored negotiations between the two Koreas are deadlocked. North Korea announced Tuesday it does not intend to reply by the Jan. 17 deadline and will stay away from the games unless it is made co-host.

Eight other countries, including Albania, Cuba, Ethiopia and Nicaragua, have not decided whether to send teams. The others are Madagascar, the Seychelles, Syria and Tanzania.

Pyongyang proposes talks with Seoul

Meanwhile North Korea sent a letter to the South on Thursday calling for a meeting to prepare for high-level talks on Pyongyang's demands to co-host the Seoul Olympic Games, a Seoul government spokesman said.

Nordics to clash with Latins in Monte Carlo

PARIS (R) — Finnish and Swedish drivers will clash with the world's top Latins as they bid to thwart a hat-trick of Lancia victories in the 56th Monte Carlo Rally which begins on Saturday.

Last year's winner, Massimo Biasion of Italy, is favourite again to give Lancia a third successive win. But the Mazda team, with the top Nordic drivers in their stable, will be making a concerted effort to triumph.

About 180 drivers will set off from five European towns for the central French city of Saint-Etienne from where the first of five against-the-clock stages will be raced on Sunday.

Night racing has been reintroduced in 1988 after being banned last year for safety reasons. The drivers say that, and an absence of snow on almost all the mountainous roads of southern France, will be the crucial factors.

This year's rally clashes with the controversial Paris-Dakar race which is being contested in Africa. As a result, several leading drivers, including 1985 Monte Carlo champion Ari Vatanen of Finland, will be absent from the

event, the first on this year's world championship calendar.

Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA), told the French sports daily Le Sport the start of the Paris-Dakar would be brought forward next year so that the two did not clash.

World champion Juha Kankkunen, who finished second in a Lancia in the Monte Carlo Rally last year, will also be missing here as he is competing in the Paris-Dakar. He sacrificed an impregnable lead to let Biasion win last year on the orders of his Lancia team.

Kankkunen has now joined Peugeot, who will be represented only by private entries here this year. They withdrew their works models in 1987 because of restrictions placed on cars after a series of fatal accidents.

This year's rally is likely to develop into a duel between the four-wheel drive Lancias, driven by Biasion and France's Bruno Saby, and the Mazda 323s driven by Finns Timo Salonen and Hannu Mikkola and Swede Ingvar Carlsson.



LOST IN THE SAND: Two scenes from the accident-hit Paris-Dakar Rally. (Above) the Honda 600 No. 67 De Heitz (FRA) and the Suzuki Dr. 600 R No. 47 in one of the rally's stages. (Below) an attempt to adjust an edgy four-wheel driver 'sunk' in the sand (Sygma photos)



Austria beats Oman in King's Cup tourney

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Austria easily defeated Oman 3-0 Thursday night in the 19th annual King's Cup Amateur Soccer Tournament at Bangkok's national stadium.

The teams were tied 0-0 at halftime. Austria's Swarovski Tirol got its first goal when Rupert Marko shot in the 20th minute of the second half, followed by Andreas Spielmann in the 37th minute. Peter Pacult shot the Tirol's third goal in the 40th minute of the second half.

In another match, Indonesia tied Thailand 3-3. Thailand's Piyapong pue-on shot the Thais' first goal in the 22nd minute, followed by Pratheep Pankhaw and Vitoon Kijmongkolsak in the 29th and 44th minutes of the first half, giving Thailand a 3-2 lead at halftime.

Indonesia's Ricky Yacob shot two goals in the 20th and 25th minutes of the first half and teammate Masrul Koto evened the score with a third goal in the 18th minute of the second half.

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Rising stars come close to glory

MELBOURNE, Australia (Agencies) — Patty Fendick and Akiko Kijimuta came close to tennis glory Friday, but neither was able to pull off victory in the end.

Briefly, the two rising stars appeared to be causing major upsets in the \$1.9-million Australian Open.

Kijimuta, a 19-year-old from Kanagawa in Japan, caused more than a ripple when she stole the first set in her clash with the former No. 1-ranked Martina Navratilova.

And Fendick, a 22-year-old from San Francisco, stirred the pot further when she completed a similar feat against No. 3-ranked Chris Evert.

But in the end, the two youngsters were no match for their experienced rivals, with Kijimuta losing 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 and Fendick going down 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

"I couldn't believe that I won the first set. After that I got very nervous," said Kijimuta. "I always thought she could come back."

Navratilova, for so long the leading lady of women's tennis, admitted she had been worried momentarily.

"I made a lot of unforced errors in the first set and my first

serve wasn't good," she said. "I figured that even if she was playing well I'd win in straight sets. When I got 4-2 down I thought I'd better get myself into gear."

Fendick said she was aware that victory would not come easily.

"I had a bit of trouble getting my backhand going. She realised that and just wore me down in that area," she said.

"Chris was very nervous in the first set. She was making mistakes that she would never make. I thought I had a chance, but let's face it, people in the top 10 are not going to roll over and die."

Evert also praised her opponent.

"For the first five or six games she played me to a tee," she said. "She just played great tennis. I thought she couldn't keep it up and she didn't."

Navratilova will now face left-hander Sylvia Hanika of West Germany in the round of 16 while Evert meets Swiss Celine Cohen.

Cohen will be playing the first fourth-round match of her career after scoring a 4-6, 6-1, 9-7 win over American Lea Antonoplis.

Noah surprised at success

Frenchman Yannick Noah, back after injury, surprised himself by hanging on to reach the last 16 on Friday.

"I didn't expect to be here still," admitted the fifth seed after being involved in tie-breakers in two sets as he beat South African Eddie Edwards 6-3, 6-7, (4-7) 7-6, (7-1), 6-4 in the third round.

The quietly-spoken Noah, world-ranked eighth, is playing his first tournament since November after suffering a groin injury.

A quarter-finalist last year, Noah decided only 10 days ago to enter this tournament and did not arrive in Australia until last

Friday. "When you are not playing, you're kind of mellowing and it's hard to get back to really concentrating," said Noah, adding that he was not happy with his game. "At the start of my matches I have found it difficult to concentrate. I need more time on the court," he said. "I served well today but I am still slow and my groundstrokes are not as sharp as they could be."

Noah, the only Frenchman left in the men's event after seventh-seeded compatriot Henri Leconte crashed 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to American Todd Witsken, now meets unseeded Dutchman Michiel Schapers.

Top-ranked Steffi Graf of West Germany trounced Australian Janine Thompson 6-0, 6-1 Thursday to move into the third round.

Graf, 18, the top seed, took just 40 minutes to defeat Thompson, who is ranked 106th in the world.

Graf took full advantage of Thompson's relative lack of mobility, cracking winning shots with remorseless consistency.

Two-time men's singles champion Mats Wilander of Sweden also advanced Thursday, scoring a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Australian Simon Youl.

Earlier, defending champion Stefan Edberg, also of Sweden, scored a 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 win over Alexander Mironz of West Germany.

Defending Australian Open champion Stefan Edberg was among several players to lose prized tennis rackets after thieves broke into a re-stringing store in downtown Melbourne Wednesday night.

Edberg, who is seeking his third straight open title, confirmed Thursday that he had lost three of his best rackets, which had been especially made for him.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS

Performances 7.30, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

SHANTY FARM
(Arabic)

Performances 7.30, 8.15, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

GIRLS FUN

Performances 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 10.30

IMF executive denounces inability to defend dollar

Gulf oil states bow to discount pressures despite output cuts

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A leader of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) sharply criticized the United States and other leading financial countries on Thursday for failing to keep up the price of the dollar as they promised almost a year ago.

He urged that the United States raise interest rates. Higher interest in this country would help push up the dollar by attracting funds from other countries.

Netherlands Finance Minister H. Onno Ruding heads the fund's

Interim Committee, its top authority for day to day business among the 152 member governments. He was referring to the "Loose agreement" in Paris last February by Treasury Secretary James Baker and his counterparts from Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

The agreement said the dollar should be kept at about current levels. Since then it has fallen about 18 per cent against the Japanese yen, and about 11 per cent against the Deutschmark.

Low prices for the dollar cut the income of those countries and others which depend heavily on exports.

"A country like (West) Germany may go into a slump," Mr. Ruding told reporters.

He said he had favoured a fall in the dollar, but that about a year ago it had fallen far enough. Stability had also been promised in later statements, he pointed out.

"They did not deliver because of insufficient changes in domestic policy," he said.

He criticized West Germany for failing to lower its interest rates, a move that would have the same international effect as a rise in U.S. rates. It would send more money to buy dollars in the United States, thus pushing up the price of the dollar. Mr. Ruding said his own country had repeatedly lowered its own interest rates. Another drop was announced Thursday by the Dutch central bank.

"We can't do it every week," he said.

Mr. Ruding endorsed the idea of the United States buying Japanese yen with some of the \$10 billion worth of "Special Drawing Rights," a kind of currency issued by the IMF.

"But in the long run there has to be a minimum average holding — so it can't be done forever," he said.

The additional yen would provide funds to enable the U.S. Federal Reserve system to buy dollars on the world market, thus helping keep the dollar price from falling further.

Mr. Ruding said it is not present U.S. policy to raise interest rates, a policy which some American economists fear would lead to a recession.

'U.S. no longer neglects dollar'

In London, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said aggressive American moves to prop the dollar's value in the new year have ended a hurtful period of U.S. authorities' benign neglect of currency rates.

The U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve, last week joined European and Japanese central bankers in a concerted new year buying campaign that boosted the dollar from record lows.

"This ending of a brief but damaging phase of so-called benign neglect is a step in the right

direction," Mr. Lawson told parliament.

But, he added: "It is idle to suppose that official intervention on its own, even when it is coordinated internationally and involves full U.S. participation, amounts to coherent policy."

Mr. Lawson has in the past called for higher U.S. interest rates to boost the dollar. He also says the United States budget deficit must come down.

Dealers in financial markets say that deficit is a major strain on the global economy. But some economists fear cutting it too quickly could set off a recession. Others worry that higher interest rates would do the same.

Mr. Lawson disagrees. "The current strength of the world economy does give us a breathing space in which to get the world onto a more sustainable footing," Mr. Lawson said.

"We must get the right policies in place, and pursue them with patience and determination," he said. "Provided we can do that, although there may be some slowdown in world economic growth, I am confident we can avoid the twin dangers of inflation and recession."

In Paris, Finance Minister Edouard Balladur renewed French pressure on Thursday for a stronger European monetary system and urged West Germany to do more to reflate its economy.

Mr. Balladur developed his ideas in an interview with Le Figaro newspaper as he awaited a response to radical proposals which he made in letters to fellow European finance ministers last week on European and global monetary reform.

Mr. Balladur favours a European central bank which would one day manage a common, basket currency, for example the European Currency Unit (ECU).

"The creation of a unified economic zone... naturally suggests the idea of a common currency for Europeans. European countries should seriously consider setting up a common central bank to manage their common currency," he told Le Figaro.

In the meantime, he wants a tighter European Monetary System (EMS), the device in which key European currencies float jointly within agreed ranges.

Mr. Balladur wants Britain's pound sterling to be brought fully into the system and says all currencies should float under the same conditions. Italy's lira is

now allowed wider fluctuation than other currencies within the exchange rate mechanism.

The French minister also told Le Figaro that slow West German domestic consumption of goods hampered its partners' export attempts and threw European trade flows off balance.

"Over a number of years Germany has been able to accumulate external trade surpluses because of insufficient internal growth without any mechanism being in place which would prompt it to accelerate the pace of its economy," he said.

Mr. Balladur hopes to reach agreement on at least a framework for discussion of his ideas at the next EC summit in Brussels on Feb. 11 and 12.

Both he and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac have begun to expand on their vision of Europe's future — perhaps, say political analysts, with an eye on votes before Mr. Chirac's likely declaration at the end of January that he will run in the French presidential election in April.

But there is so far little sign of an enthusiastic reaction to the monetary proposals, and economists doubt if other nations share French enthusiasm for a European central bank and a single currency, ideas Mr. Balladur has floated in the past.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said on Wednesday of sterling's EMS entry: "I think that the turbulence we have been through has shown that it is not yet the time to join."

Mr. Karl Otto Poehl, president of the West German Bundesbank (central bank), said the EMS had shown great stability during the dollar's recent slide.

"It is quite extraordinary that, contrary to previous experience, the downwards pressure on the dollar, and linked to it, the upwards pressure on the mark have not provoked any particular tension in the EMS," he said.

The head of the Institut Monétaire Luxembourgeois, the Luxembourg monetary authority, Mr. Pierre Jaans, told Reuters on Thursday that central bank heads were beginning to take the idea of a European central bank more seriously.

But it could still be years before it was set up.

"Talking about it now is much less of a lip service than it was even two or three years ago. Now it is a reasonably operational discussion," he said.

Copper price plunges in hectic selling

LONDON (R) — A sudden drop of nearly \$200 a tonne in the copper price may signal the end of a boom that took it to historic highs at new year, traders said on Thursday.

They said a wave of nervous selling took three-month copper futures on the London Metal Exchange down to \$2,250 a tonne, a loss of \$195 from Wednesday afternoon.

The drop coincided with a forecast by brokerage Shearson Lehman Bros. that prices for copper and other base metals, some of which ended 1987 much higher than previously forecast, will fall significantly because the world

economy is slowing down.

On Jan. 4, three-months copper reached \$2,845, its highest for eight years, reflecting expectations that good demand through early in 1988 would continue to drain already low world stock levels.

Some traders initially saw the subsequent fall in prices as just a technical reaction to the market's climb.

But world supplies have lately shown a slight increase after a long period of decline.

"The market has been particularly vulnerable since last week's rise in LME (London Metal Exchange) stocks," said an analyst

in Chicago on Wednesday night as prices slid there.

Total LME copper stocks over the past two weeks have risen around 14,000 tonnes to 56,825 tonnes after falling almost every week for four months from around 115,000 tonnes last September.

Other analysts said that, if copper futures fell through \$2,200 to \$2,250, further sharp losses might be triggered.

Shearson Lehman's weekly review said that among precious metals, gold and silver were expected to show a further modest improvement, although the price of platinum would ease.

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Gulf oil producers one by one are bowing to pressure from a glutted market and undercutting OPEC's official price, industry sources said on Thursday.

Six Gulf members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reduced output this month by at least 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) to 10.3 million to help support prices, they said.

But the output cuts — voluntary by Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Iraq and forced on Saudi Arabia and Iran by slack sales — did not work, the sources added.

To preserve market shares, recession-hit Gulf states began meeting requests for supplies at prices related to the spot market — almost \$2 below OPEC's \$18 a barrel benchmark price.

Traders said Iran, Qatar and Iraq had been selling at spot-related prices for some time. Kuwait was also offering its crude at a discount.

They said Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, was now also thought to be giving discounts at least to some of its big buyers. Only the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had so far resisted the pressure.

OPEC President Riwanu Lukman said on Monday the 13-nation group was now producing between 16 and 16.5 million barrels per day including Iraq, compared with an estimated 18.3 million in December.

Abu Dhabi, biggest producer in the UAE, cut output by 400,000 b/d to 1.2 million b/d in January. But with around 350,000 b/d from Dubai, the UAE total still stood at 1.2 million b/d compared with its 948,000 b/d OPEC quota, industry sources said.

They said Kuwait was producing its quota of 996,000 b/d, after cutting more than 150,000 in January.

Iran and Iraq, relying heavily on oil incomes to fight their costly war, were also cutting output. "Mr. Lukman said Iraq, although excluded from the OPEC quota set at the group's last meeting in Vienna, had cut output to around 2.3 million b/d from an estimated 2.6 million."

Iran, facing buyer resistance after a U.S. oil embargo against it, was forced to trim output. It now produced under two million b/d compared with a quota of 2.369 million, industry sources said.

Saudi Arabia's output fell to 3.6 million b/d from 4.2 million in December, a decline also attributed to lower purchases.

Since Monday, spot prices for February delivery have fallen at least \$1 to \$16.20 a barrel for European benchmark crude Brent, after news that Gulf states were selling at a discount.

The Middle East Economic Survey newsletter said on Monday Saudi Arabia had been giving preferential treatment to the four U.S. oil companies that make up the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) — Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and Chevron.

It said the companies, which operate Saudi oilfields, were invoiced on the basis of official prices for their purchases. But for

some time they had been making actual payments on a market price basis, with final settlement deferred.

Kuwait had offered its Japanese and U.S. customers market-related prices, but buyers were demanding larger discounts, oil executives said.

"Both Kuwait and Abu Dhabi were watching each other to see which one would offer market-related prices," one Japanese executive said.

"Kuwait gave up official prices first. Abu Dhabi is now the only Gulf producer selling at official prices," he added.

He said Japanese oil companies would soon negotiate 145,000 b/d term contracts with Abu Dhabi, most of which are due to expire at the end of March.

"The companies will surely ask for discounts," he said.

Iran extends offer of cheap oil to Japan

Meanwhile, industry sources in Tokyo said Iran had extended an offer of cut-price oil to Japan, dealing another blow to OPEC efforts to control discounting among its money-hungry member countries.

The sources said Iran had originally offered oil to Japan, its best customer, at \$2 a barrel below official OPEC prices for January only but had extended the offer until the end of March.

But Japanese buyers are hesitating to commit to buying Iranian oil for the next two months even at the discounted price because they believe prices will drop even further by March, oil industry sources said.

"We don't know what the market situation will be by March," said one refiner. "And if we wait a bit longer, may be Iran will offer a better price."

Saudi Arabia denies selling oil at lower prices

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Thursday denied that it was selling crude at market prices lower than the benchmark of \$18 per barrel.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted an unnamed official source at the ministry of petroleum as saying he was "surprised" by a statement made by Iran's deputy oil minister, Hossein Kazempour Ardabili, that the kingdom was selling its oil on a market price basis.

He said the accusation was "completely void of truth."

The source, who was not identified, charged that Iran has been providing discounts by up to \$3 per barrel to all buyers and violating since May its OPEC production quota.

"Iran is trying to cover up its violations by spreading charges," he added.

In Cairo, Egypt has decreased the price of its top-grade Gulf of Suez crude by 90 cents to \$15 per

barrel for the last two weeks of January, but a decision on the prices of its other three blends has been postponed, an oil ministry source said Thursday.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the interdepartmental price-setting committee had not reached a decision on the prices of Belayim, Ras Badran and Ras Ghareb, and would meet again Sunday.

For the first two weeks of January, the price of Belayim was \$15.05 a barrel, Ras Badran was \$14.55 a barrel and Ras Ghareb was \$13.95 a barrel.

The source noted that the present situation left the top grade Gulf of Suez selling cheaper than the second grade Belayim. Oil ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

Egypt is not a member of OPEC but generally is guided in its pricing decisions by OPEC prices.

It produces 870,000 barrels of oil daily, consuming half domestically and exporting half under long-term contracts.

Group sees volatile prices, danger of shortage in 1990s

In Washington, an oil industry official said oil prices would remain volatile over the next several years amid rising demand and falling U.S. production, which could leave America vulnerable to another shortage.

The prediction came as the American Petroleum Institute (API) issued a year-end report which showed an increase in U.S. oil demand and imports for 1987, while domestic production fell to its lowest level in a decade.

The report suggests that sharper rises in U.S. oil imports and a domestic production drop during 1988 were the beginning of a trend and not aberrations caused by chaos in the oil markets, as some analysts had thought, said Mr. Edmund Murphy, API director of finance, accounting and statistics.

"Obviously there is a great deal of uncertainty about the future direction of energy markets," Mr. Murphy told reporters.

"But it is clear from what occurred last year that both the U.S. demand and U.S. supply of petroleum are continuing to react sharply to the drop in prices which occurred in 1986," he noted.

Analysts have said that a major factor depressing oil prices or keeping them in check has been the world's ample spare production capacity, estimated at about 11 million b/d two years ago, which is in excess of last year's actual global output of 55.7 million b/d.

Mr. Murphy predicted that the world's spare capacity, nearly all of which is within OPEC would shrink to about 5.5 million b/d within three to five years.

At that point "the probability of shortages and price increases, similar to what we experienced in the 1970s, increases substantially," Mr. Murphy said.

"Our energy future is going to be strictly a function of what happens in the OPEC group," he added.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8245/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2875/85	Canadian dollar
	1.6310/21	Deutschmarks
	1.8311/21	Dutch guilders
	1.3285/95	Swiss francs
	34.09/12	Belgian francs
	5.5130/60	French francs
	1201/1203	Italian lire
	126.30/40	Japanese yen
	5.9175/225	Swedish crowns
	6.3030/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.2650/2700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	484.90/485.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares staged a spectacular rally after news of a smaller than expected \$13.22 billion U.S. November trade deficit was greeted with huge relief, dealers said. The market received a further boost from an early surge on Wall Street and the FTSE 100 index reached a high of 1,793.6 before easing to stand at a net 38.3 up at 1,781.7 at 1530 GMT Friday. Dealers said prices were below their best on profit-taking. Mr. Ian Harwood, director of U.K. equities at Warburg Securities, said "the figure was a very pleasant surprise, but there were immediate second thoughts over the U.S. deficit trend." Mr. Harwood added "if you take the last two months together to get a useful indication, then you still come out with an average of over \$15 billion, which is still very bad."

The U.S. trade gap soared to a record \$17.6 billion in October and there had been widespread fears that the November data would not show a substantial improvement. In the event, the figure was below the lowest forecasts as the dollar climbed steeply, gaining five pence against the mark. This helped dollar earners rise sharply, but dealers said they were not surprised that the rally met some profit-taking as the outlook for the U.S. deficits and the dollar is still bleak.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fichter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This morning can bring many curious and potentially upsetting problems, and it is necessary that you use care and caution when dealing with them. Be charming and understanding to others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Don't get involved in an argument between two acquaintances — just smile and stay out of trouble. Keep your nose to the grindstone.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Don't become involved in any discussions of personal finance. Be sure you make time for some recreation later in the day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): An associate cannot come to the right decision at this time, and neither can you, so put that contract aside until a better time comes up.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Don't let a secret worry prevent you from handling your work, and don't do anything which will disrupt your budget tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): A misunderstanding between your mate and one of your friends will smooth itself out, so don't get involved. Drive with the utmost care.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Don't make any hasty decisions about labor-saving methods. Wait until you're sure which will be the most efficient and inexpensive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is not a good day to communicate with others, so don't schedule any important discussions. Make some plans for recreation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): See what can be done to get a co-worker to go along with your ideas, but don't force the issue. Listen carefully to advice from your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your ideas may be at odds with those of your partners, but keep them and maintain harmony. You can find solace at home tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Don't let a co-worker put a crimp in your plans, but be tactful with this person. Be sure you don't get involved in any arguments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Use your talents wisely, and don't waste time with a procrastinating friend. You get an order from a superior, so be sure to follow it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Sidestep an argument between a friend and a new contact, or you'll end up taking the blame. Make sure you drive with the utmost care.

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth White

ACROSS

1. Hint
2. Fleming and Smith
3. away (navo)
4. Without peer
5. Blackthorn
6. Selling term
7. Walked
8. nervously
9. Window ledge
10. Ago output
11. Melt
12. Polioemic
13. animal
14. Over a large area
15. 2c. dish
16. Shun
17. Black or fox
18. follower
19. Beaver barrier
20. Chest mormur
21. (inhuman)
22. Swiss river
23. Turninate
24. Flament
25. Shale borders
26. Mease
27. Certain beams
28. Crow call
29. More weighty things to attend to
30. Thug
31. In the know
32. Elevate
33. Mate for Henry VIII
34. S-shaped curve
35. Bishop's headwras
36. —do-well
37. Care for
38. Cable meter

DOWN

1. Surpass
2. Not saint
3. Plunder
4. Waller flares
5. Carrot-top
6. Discharged
7. Landed
8. —contaminate
9. Obstascacy
10. Chief And
11. Winged
12. Even
13. Pathetic
14. Possesse
15. Help with the dishes
16. Cabbie's concern
17. Car
18. Really sign
19. Hasten
20. Ill-bred one
21. Ganine tool
22. Surrealist painter
23. War god
24. Fit together
25. Ground by
26. Striving in music abbr.
27. Sandy's bark
28. Frau's mate
29. Case — (money situation)
30. More shrewd
31. Reverberated
32. Grain
33. Joshua or
34. Ella
35. Make amends
36. Belg. river
37. Sooner than
38. "Bus Stop" playwright
39. accomplish
40. Ceremony
41. Balg. river
42. Sooner than

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. Hint
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4. Without peer
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7. Walked
8. nervously
9. Window ledge
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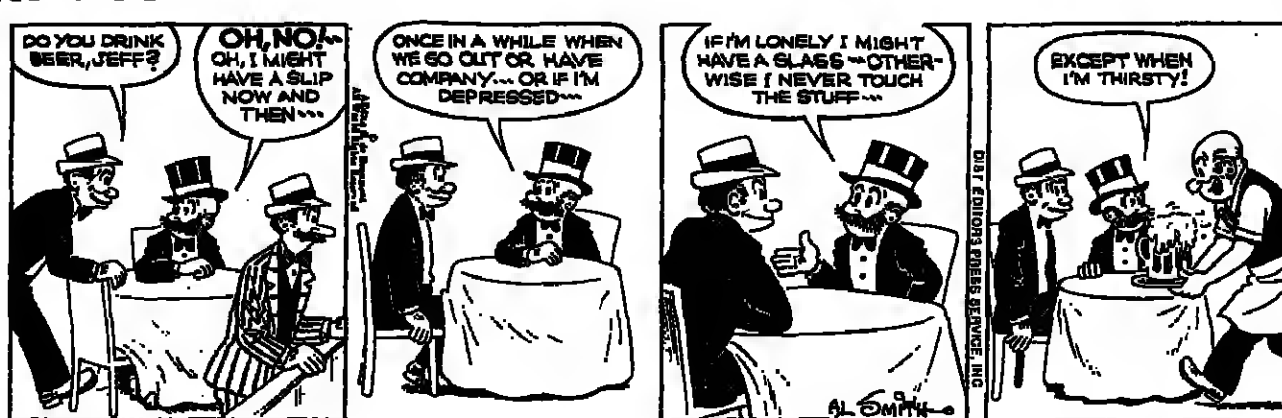
DOWN

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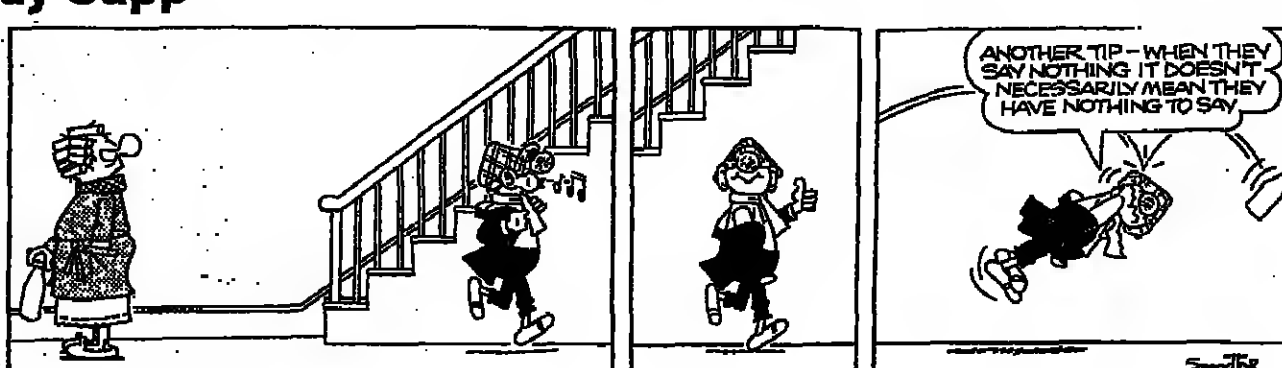
Peanuts



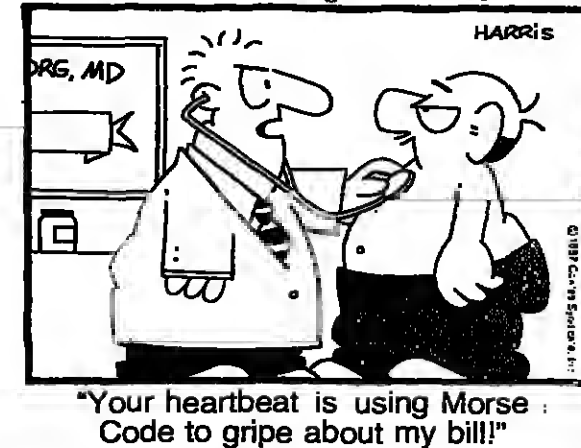
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Your heartbeat is using Morse Code to gripe about my bill!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HALTE

AGREW

BLANGE

FRAIDT

THEY ARRESTED THE NURSERYMAN BECAUSE THEY FOUND HIM INVOLVED IN THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FEVER HELLO PAGODA GRAVEN

Answer: People who are prone to be careless often end up this way—PRONE

Woman admits bombing plane on N. Korean orders

S.Koreans denounce North for destruction of KAL airliner

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Koreans united Friday to denounce North Korea for destroying an airliner packed with civilians. Some people calling for revenge.

Kim Hyon Hui told a national television news conference that she was a North Korean agent and had placed a bomb on a Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 707 that disappeared Nov. 29 with all 115 people aboard. The confession was made live on the state-run television networks and repeated several times during the day.

"The ill-fated North should disappear forever from our land," said businessman Lee Min-Sup after learning about the confession. "You remember how many bad crimes they have plotted in the past."

A young woman, who asked

not to be named, said after seeing the confession by the petite Ms. Kim: "It's outrageous that North Korea used a weak woman in horrible terror."

The government and political opposition closed ranks to denounce the North.

"How could people of the same nationality have perpetrated such barbarous crimes?" asked opposition leader Kim Young-Sam.

Government spokesman Lee Woong-Hee issued a statement demanding that North Korea apologise for plotting the "barbarous" destruction of the plane and punish those involved in the

plot. Defence Minister Chung Ho Yong threatened to take retaliatory action, ordering all military units on alert against any North Korean military provocation.

Relatives of the people killed on the plane reacted with shock and outrage.

"That's terrible... how can it happen?" said Kwon Ki-Ok, 61, a representative of family members who said they would organise a rally to denounce the North.

Hwang Dong-Ho, 52, a relative of one of the dead, said, "their sacrifice could provide a chance for us to drive North Korea off of the earth."

About 60 foreign ambassadors and diplomats based in Seoul were called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shortly after Ms. Kim's confession to be given de-

tails of the investigation.

The Korean peninsula has been divided since 1945 with the South and the North locked in a bitter struggle that sparked the bloody Korean war between 1950 and 1953. North Korea has staged numerous attacks on the South in recent years.

Ms. Kim said she was acting on the orders of North Korean leaders who wanted to disrupt the Olympic Games to be held in Seoul in September.

North Korea, which has been demanding to co-host the Olympics, has denied it was involved in the loss of the plane.

"North Korea must have destroyed the plane out of jitters at South Korea's successful hosting of the Olympics," said Kang Kyong-Shik, a member of the National Assembly from the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

Spain, U.S. agree in principle on bases

MADRID (R) — Spain and the United States have informally reached an agreement in principle on reducing the U.S. military presence in Spain, Spanish state radio said on Friday.

The radio said that under the agreement, which was not yet official, the U.S. would withdraw a strategic wing of 72 F-16 fighter bombers from an airbase near Madrid by 1992 at the latest.

The United States would considerably reduce its troop presence, retaining slightly more than half of the 12,500 troops which it is allowed to station in

Spain under a bilateral defence pact which expires next May, the radio said.

Officials at the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. embassy were not immediately available to comment.

The radio said the agreement in principle would be the basis for a new defence pact between the two countries.

Spain served formal notice to the United States two months ago that, barring agreement on the F-16s, it would not automatically renew their 34-year-old pact when it expired.

The F-16 fighters have been the sticking point in 18 months of negotiations for U.S. troop reductions.

Madrid had demanded the complete withdrawal of the planes, while Washington had said they were essential for NATO's southern flank.

The radio said the agreement in principle had been reached during talks in recent days between Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez and the U.S. Ambassador in Madrid, Reginald Bartholomew.

China-Portugal pact on Macao takes effect

PEKING (AP) — China and Portugal on Friday exchanged documents to formally begin the 12-year transition period for the return of the tiny colony of Macao to Chinese rule.

Portuguese traders first settled on Macao, 16 square kilometres of islands and peninsula on China's south coast, in 1557 during the peak of their nation's imperial expansion.

Portugal's other colonies in Latin America, Africa and Asia

long since have gained independence, leaving Macao as its last overseas possession.

Portugal and China signed an agreement in April to return Macao to Chinese rule on Dec. 20, 1999 — two years after Britain returns nearby Hong Kong to China.

On Friday, Portuguese Ambassador Neto Valerio and China's Vice Foreign Minister, Zhou Nan, exchanged documents of

ratification by their nations' legislatures and inaugurated a bilateral liaison group and land group to make preparations for the transfer.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao De Deus Pinheiro had been scheduled to visit Peking for the ceremony but cancelled earlier this month. Portugal's Foreign Ministry said the cancellation had no political significance, and China refused to comment on it.

Cosmonauts prepare for shuttle flight

EAST BERLIN (R) — Moscow is planning to launch a reusable spacecraft similar to the U.S. space shuttle, but is first investigating the effects of weightlessness on test pilots, a Soviet official said.

General Anatoly Filipchenko of the Soviet Cosmonaut Training Centre near Moscow told East German reporters it had not yet been decided whether to make the first test launch with crew.

"The new technology dubbed 'Kosmoslyot' ... is being prepared. But before it is flown by experienced test pilots the influence of weightlessness on them must be known," a report on

Thursday night by the East German News Agency ADN quoted Gen. Filipchenko as saying.

The Soviet craft is similar in design to the U.S. shuttle, grounded since the explosion of Challenger in January 1986.

"It is still open whether we will test the new technology with or without crew. We here at Star City (Moscow's space centre) are preparing the people for such flights," he said.

Last week another Soviet space official told ADN "horizontal flights" presumably starting atop large aircraft — were already under way and that Moscow would finish building an unman-

ned version this year.

Gen. Filipchenko also hinted that a recent Soviet space mission exchanging crews aboard the orbital Mir complex was significant to the shuttle programme, but did not elaborate.

Anatoly Levchenko, called a research cosmonaut by Moscow, spent a week in space during the mission last month, flying up to the space station with a new crew and coming back with the team that had been in orbit.

He said Moscow was considering launching an extra mission to Mir with a doctor on board to monitor the last third of the new crew's stay in space.

Chernobyl cleanup cost over \$6b, Soviets report

MOSCOW (R) — The cleaning up operation after the April 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station cost the Soviet Union four billion roubles (\$6.6 billion), Soviet television has reported.

It said a report on the operation was discussed by the Communist Party's 13-man ruling politburo, which heard that radiation levels at the Chernobyl plant and surrounding area were back to normal.

The plant's three remaining reactors had been put on stream.

The fourth reactor, where the April 1986 fire and explosion took place, has been sealed and encased in concrete.

The report said production losses as a result of the disaster amounted to eight billion roubles (\$12.2 billion).

The new settlement for Chernobyl workers at Slavutich was near completion, the report said. The entire population of the town of Pripyat was evacuated after the accident, in which 31 people died and a cloud of radiation spread over Europe.

Palermo policeman shot in 5th mafia killing

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — A new mafia offensive in Palermo claimed its fifth victim in a month on Thursday when gunmen murdered a policeman accused of killing a suspected member of the criminal society.

Natalio Mondo, 36, was the second target in three days of mafia hit-men who have fought back ruthlessly since the jailing of nearly 340 gangsters for a total of more than 2,700 years in Palermo last month.

Police said three killers were believed to have opened fire on Mondo with pistols as he raised the shutters on a toy shop run by his wife. Their car was later found burned out, a mafia trademark.

The killing came on the same day as the funeral of Giuseppe Insalaco, a former mayor of Palermo, who was murdered in his car on Tuesday night. Investigators believe he may have been killed to stop him revealing details of links between the mafia and top politicians.

Mondo was among 16 policemen due to stand trial later this year for the torture and manslaughter in Palermo Police Headquarters of Salvatore Marino, a suspect picked up in connection with the 1985 murder of top anti-mafia officer Giuseppe Montana.

Mondo was the only man to escape a mafia ambush nine days after Montana's death, in which the deputy head of Palermo detectives, Antonio Cassara, and another officer were killed with automatic rifle fire.

Under Cassara's orders Mondo had been infiltrated into a mafia drug-running gang, judicial sources said.

Aquino denounces mounting violence

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corason Aquino Friday denounced the mounting violence in campaigns for next week's local elections, saying it was part of desperate efforts by leftist and right-wing Philippine extremists to derail his country's return to democracy.

Mrs. Aquino issued the statement after a visit to a candidate wounded in a series of violent incidents that left at least seven people, two of them candidates, dead and 11 others injured throughout the country in the last 72 hours.

Meanwhile, police said Friday they had no clue to the identities of three gunmen who shot at the car of Ambassador Jacques Le Blanc as the envoy left the French embassy on his way home the previous night. The envoy was travelling in a bullet-proof car and was not injured.

Embassy spokesman Jean Pierre Swynedauw said security at the embassy had been beefed up following the incident, which occurred in the Manila suburb of Makati and was the first known attack on a foreign diplomat here.

The military, which depends on delayed reports from rural areas, says 67 people, including 34 candidates, have been killed since the campaign for Monday's balloting began on Dec. 1. Local mass media place the death toll at more than 80.

"I most strongly deplore the continuing violence in the current campaign for the Jan. 18 elections," Mrs. Aquino said.

She blamed the killings on the "extreme left and the extreme right" who are "out to plunge our country into anarchy and derail the elections" in the same manner that they tried to disrupt ratification of a new constitution in February 1987 and last May's congressional elections.

The leftist Partido Ng Bayan, or People's Party, also denounced the campaign violence and chastised Mrs. Aquino's administration for failing to ensure a peaceful and orderly vote.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A meeting with a federal undercover agent led to the arrest of an army sergeant for allegedly attempting to deliver defence information to the Soviet Union, federal law enforcement officials say.

Sgt. Daniel Walter Richardson, 42, an instructor in the Tank Turret Division at the Aberdeen proving ground in Maryland, was arrested shortly after noon (7:00 GMT) Thursday at the Chesapeake House Holiday Inn in Aberdeen, the FBI said.

"Richardson is accused of attempting to deliver information relating to national defence to a representative of the USSR," FBI spokesman William Carter said, reading from a statement issued by FBI Director William Sessions and Maj.-Gen. Harry E.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Agencies) — Opposition leaders called for a general strike Saturday and a boycott of Sunday's elections to choose a president and National Assembly.

The opposition leaders — Sylvio Claude, Marc Bazin, Gerard Gourgue and Louis Delisle — said Thursday they hoped to disrupt market and transportation activity Saturday, then have a national day of protest Sunday.

"We see a climate of terror and intimidation. The election is based on terror ... the Haitian people don't want that," said Mr. Claude, leader of the Christian Democrat Party.

Haiti will hold its first presidential elections in 30 years Sunday. An earlier vote, on Nov. 29, was cancelled after bands of thugs, apparently with military backing, killed at least 34 people and terrorised polling stations through the country.

Bonn probes nuclear shipment irregularities

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Environment Minister Klaus Töppeler said Friday he had asked for a full-scale probe into "dreadful suspicions" that weapons-grade nuclear material may have been shipped illegally to Pakistan and Libya by a West German company.

The federal parliament met in an emergency session to discuss revelations that were quickly developing into a major scandal after a night of frantic meetings to assess the impact from the growing affair.

"In light of the dreadful suspicions that fission material could have been shipped to Pakistan or Libya through Germany, in addition to the ongoing prosecutors' probe, I have put all means at my disposal to bring the facts to light," Mr. Töppeler told a stormy session of parliament.

A prosecutor in the city of Hanau just outside Frankfurt also is looking into the allegations.

The Giessen Anzeiger newspaper said Friday the widening scandal surrounding the West German atomic transport firm Transnuklear may also extend to the Soviet Union.

The Giessen newspaper said that in several deliveries of atomic materials from the German company Transnuklear to the Soviet Union up until 1985 there had been discrepancies in the reported weight of the materials in the containers and the actual weight.

According to the newspaper, the material was delivered

through legal contracts between a Transnuklear sister company, RBÜ, and the Swedish firms Asea Atom and Swedish Nuclear Fuel.

The newspaper did not give further details, and did not reveal its sources. It made no mention of weapons-grade materials being among the materials delivered.

Transnuklear's licence was suspended in December because of alleged irregularities in the transport and storage of nuclear wastes.

Hesse state officials say they learned of the possibility of illegal deliveries of weapons-grade materials to Libya and Pakistan in connection with the week-long investigation of Transnuklear.

Officials in Hesse state say several shipments of uranium 235 produced in West Germany may have been delivered to the two nations via an atomic research centre in Mol, Belgium and unidentified Swiss companies.

In Mol, Belgium, the director of the Atomic Research Agency SCK on Friday denied rumours that weapons-grade nuclear material may have been shipped from West Germany to the two countries via Belgium.

"I know absolutely nothing about that," said Paul De Jonghe, director of the SCK nuclear study facility in Mol. Asked by BRT state radio whether there had been an exchange of such material between SCK and Libya and Pakistan, he said "no, zero."

Bork resigns from bench

WASHINGTON (R) — Robert Bork, whose nomination to the Supreme Court was defeated in the Senate, resigned as a federal judge on Thursday to campaign for the conservative judicial views which led to his rejection.

President Reagan, who nominated Judge Bork to the nation's highest court and was hit hard by the Senate vote, said he accepted Judge Bork's resignation "with deep sadness."

The White House made public the letters the two men exchanged.

Mr. Reagan, in his letter to Judge Bork, praised the jurist

and urged him to speak out in what he called a debate with "advocates who view the courts and the constitution as mere instruments for political advantage."

Judge Bork wrote that he had to resign in order to speak out after six years on the U.S. court of appeals here.

"The crux of the matter is that I wish to speak, write and teach about law and other issues of public policy more extensively and more freely than is possible in my present position," he wrote.

Sikhs kill 10 in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Sikh extremists gunned down 10 people Friday, including eight members of a family and a police inspector, police said.

Two Sikh militants on a motor scooter came to the residence of Inspector Prem Nath in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar early Friday and killed him and his wife, Nir-mala, with AK-47 assault rifles, said Ishar Alam, the police chief. Nath, 47, was a Hindu.

A teapot and cups lay scattered in a pool of blood at the residence near a busy city square.

Japanese picked to head WHO

GENEVA (R) — Hiroshi Nakajima of Japan was chosen on Thursday to succeed Denmark's Halfdan Mahler as director-general of the 166-nation World Health Organisation (WHO), an agency spokesman said.

Dr. Nakajima, WHO's regional director for the West Pacific in Manila since 1979, was nominated by the 31-member executive board for a five-year term in the top post.

WHO's assembly will meet here in May to approve the appointment, to start in July.

Mr. Mahler, who has been director-general of the Geneva-based health agency for 15 years, informed the board he did not wish to run for a fourth term, WHO spokesman Gino Levi told Reuters.

Dr. Nakajima, 59, obtained his medical doctorate from the Tokyo Medical College in 1960s, specialising in neuropsychiatry and pharmacology. In 1984 he was awarded the Kojima prize, the highest award given in Japan for public health.

Soyster, commander of U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.

Federal Authorities monitored contacts Richardson is accused of initiating with the Soviets, and as a result, a federal undercover agent set up a meeting with Richardson that led to his arrest, according to federal law enforcement sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Haiti opposition leaders call for strike

I think (it) is charade, a sham," he told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA).

At the end of a two-day summit in Barbados last week, Caricom urged secret balloting in the elections, in line with minimum acceptable polling standards.

Current Haitian law allows polling officials to inspect ballots as they are turned in.

"We have pointed out the consequences of their (Haitian rulers') action Haiti is going to be isolated," said Mr. Compton, who is prime minister of St. Lucia. "They are going ahead in defiance of the international community... therefore they will have to live with the consequences of their action."

U.S. officials said Thursday Washington does not plan to break relations with Haiti despite an expectation that Sunday's election will not be fair and will result in a president controlled by the military.

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U2 takes Grammy nominations by storm

LOS ANGELES (R) — U2, the socially conscious Irish rock group which soared to stardom in 1987, has taken the Grammy Award nominations by storm. The band, a newcomer to the Grammy Awards, was nominated in four categories, including record of the year for I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For and album of the year for the Joshua Tree. Other artists looming large in the nominations, announced at a news conference on Thursday, were Michael Jackson, country singer Emmylou Harris and another newcomer to the Grammy scene, Suzanne Vega. Rock veterans Steve Winwood and Paul Simon, who won major awards in 1987, were nominated again, but Bruce Springsteen, who released two top-selling albums in the eligibility period, was not nominated in any major category. The 30th annual Grammy Awards, the music industry's most coveted prizes, will be presented at New York City's Radio City Music Hall on March 2. Voters are members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

250 men jailed for annoying women

RIYADH (R) — Some 250 men were jailed in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh last year for annoying women in public places, a senior police officer told Al Riyadh newspaper. He did not say if any foreigners were among those jailed in the city, which has an estimated 1.5 million population.

Bungling bank robber jailed

LONDON (R) — Bungling bank robber Michael Coleman was the world's worst holdup man, a court has heard. He peddled to a north London bank on a borrowed bicycle and astonished waiting customers by asking for the loan of a pencil to write out his demand for loot. Then, with an impatient queue gathering, he used a cash dispenser as a desk to laboriously write out his holdup note — pausing to ask the owner of the pencil for help with the spelling. Once inside the bank, Coleman, 26, carrying a plastic pistol and with strips of sticking plaster on his face as a disguise, joined the queue at the counter. But he hesitated for so long that a customer grabbed him and shouted for help. Coleman panicked, seized £190 (£340) from another customer, and fled. A knife marked with a neat set of fingerprints fell out of his trousers as he scampered through the door. His getaway cycle with more prints on it was left abandoned at the roadside.

Denmark exports sand to the desert

COPENHAGEN (R) — Not content with its own 1,500 square miles (3,885 square kilometres) of desert, the Sheikhdom of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates has decided to import 30 tonnes of sand from Denmark, a spokesman said on Thursday. The high quartz content of the western Danish sand makes it ideal for water filtration, a task impossible with fine desert sand, explained Poul Erik Bock, managing director of the Silkeborg Kyrtssand Company which won the contract. "I expect business will expand with Arab and other countries who can afford to clean their drinking water and swimming pools this way," he added.

Crocodile wrestling hero rewarded

LONDON (R) — A British army officer who saved a boy from the jaws of an African crocodile received a medal for bravery on Thursday. Rupert Novis, 20, wrestled with the crocodile as it tried to drag 13-year-old Jeremy Lloyd underwater during a canoeing trip on the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe two years ago. Novis waded into deep water to pull the boy to safety after the crocodile had broken one man's arm and bitten off the arm of Jeremy's father at the elbow. "I did not know whether there were other crocodiles around. I reacted instinctively and only later realised it was dangerous," Novis said. He was presented with the Royal Humane Society's Silver Medal at the Coldstream Guards Regimental Headquarters in London, where he is now a second lieutenant.

Newspaper says Fergie is pregnant

LONDON (AP) — Buckingham Palace has refused to confirm or deny a newspaper report that Prince Andrew's wife, Sarah, is pregnant with the couple's first child. The daily Sun quoted an "unidentified friend" as saying the 28-year-old Duchess of York, the former Sarah Ferguson, is due to give birth at the end of July. The duchess, nicknamed "Fergie," is "thrilled to pieces," the friend said, according to the newspaper. The newspaper gave no other source for the report. The palace, in a standard reply to such speculation, said in a statement: "If and when the duchess is pregnant, an announcement will be made. We have not made an announcement." The duchess' father, Maj. Ronald Ferguson, refused to comment. Andrew, 27, the second of Queen Elizabeth II's four children, is a helicopter pilot stationed with the Royal Navy in Dorset. The duchess is on a skiing holiday in Switzerland, the newspaper said.

Monk seals threatened with extinction

ATHENS (R) — Mediterranean monk seals are threatened with extinction, United Nations Environmental officials said on Wednesday. Only 400-600 monk seals now survive in the eastern Mediterranean, where the species used to thrive, they said in a statement. Disturbance by tourists, pollution and entanglement in nets have also contributed to the fall in population. The monk seal survives around secluded coastal areas of Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Morocco after dying out in southern France, Italy, Sicily, and Egypt. To protect the species, the officials called for specially protected areas from which fishermen and tourists would be excluded.

6 bandits net 3.5 b lire in cash

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Six elegantly-dressed armed bandits ambushed an armoured car and escaped with 3.5 billion lire (\$2.9 million) in cash, police reported. The money was being transferred from the Bank of Italy headquarters to post offices for the payment of pensions. The six-minute morning raid occurred on a busy avenue in the northern industrial city of Milan. The bandits, who rode three different luxury cars, first rammed into the van of Mondialpol, a private police organisation specialising in transportation of valuables. As the vehicle crashed against a cement pillar of an overpass and a door opened, the bandits held two policemen at gunpoint and grabbed 19 bags filled with cash. They sped away in two automobiles, leaving behind the damaged car used for ramming the van. Police, citing witnesses, said the bandits were armed with pistols and submachine guns and one of them levelled a weapon that looked like a small bazooka. All of them used scarves to cover their faces.

Firemen refuse to help AIDS baby

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Volunteer firemen refused to respond to a call for help from a Catholic monastery that cares for babies suffering from the fatal disease AIDS, the head of the monastery said on Tuesday. The St. Ignace Monastery, located in a remote area about 160 kilometres north of San Francisco, has provided care for several AIDS-afflicted infants for the past year. Brother Toby McCarroll, who runs the monastery, said two firemen from the nearby Annapolis Volunteer Fire Brigade refused to respond to an emergency call for oxygen three weeks ago when one of the babies began choking. Firemen from another, more distant firehouse answered the call a short time later. McCarroll said the infant died several days later. He did not blame the prolonged response time for the death but he said he was deeply disturbed by the incident. "I think that what happened that night is something that some of these people will regret for the rest of their lives," he said in a telephone interview with Reuters.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARZ
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THE ART OF CARD-READING

Both vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH			
♠ Q 10 4			
♥ Q 10 9 7 4			
♦ A K			
♣ 7 3 2			
EAST			
♠ 9 7 5 2		♠ 8 0 3	
♥ K		♥ 0 6 3	
♦ 0 6 3 2		♦ 0 8 5 4	
♣ J 9 8 5		♣ A K Q	
SOUTH			
♠ A K J			
♥ A J 8 2			
♦ Q J 10			
♣ 10 8 4			
The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass		
Opening lead: Five of ♠			

We have written before about our favorite kibitzer, the Rabbi, and his rule: "When the king is single-ton, play the ace." Certainly, South seems to have known this gentleman, judging by his play of this hand.

The bidding doesn't thrill us. The normal contract is four hearts, which would probably be defeated as the cards lie—after a club lead, the defenders should have little

difficulty collecting three club tricks and a trump, since declarer has no reason to take a correct view in the trump suit.

Against three no trump, West led his fourth-best club, and declarer was a little lucky that the defenders could not cash five tricks in the suit. East took his three club winners and shifted to a spade. Declarer overtook his jack with dummy's queen to lead the queen of hearts. When East followed low, South shot up with the ace to tell West's lone king. As a result, he took the rest of the tricks.

While to some it might seem like a lucky guess, South's decision to rise with the ace of hearts was eminently sound. From the play, West obviously had the 13th club, so declarer could not afford to let him gain the lead. However, he could well afford to lose a trick to East.

If East held the king of hearts, declarer could simply concede a trick to the monarch and still come to nine tricks. However, if